



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023 10: 45 Blended Service

Discovering What is Good and Right and True

Prelude Handbells "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

As We Gather

Walking is important for our lives! Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus to "walk as children of light" and to seek what is "good and right and true". May our walking with our Lord be blessed each day!

Welcome

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP +

Opening Song "Psalm 103 (Out of the Depths I Cry)" SSP 104

**Out of the depths I cry
You hear my voice and
you do not turn your eye
Away from me
Out of the depths I cry
In your great mercy
you will come from on high
To rescue me**

**If you Lord
kept a list of all our sin
Then who Lord
who of us could stand
With you Lord
the turning of our hearts begins
With your forgiving hand**

**Out of the depths I cry
You hear my voice and
you do not turn your eye
Away from me
Out of the depths I cry
In your great mercy
you will come from on high
To rescue me**

**If you Lord
kept a list of all our sin
Then who Lord
who of us could stand
With you Lord
the turning of our hearts begins
With your forgiving hand**

**My body my spirit
my heart and my soul
Are watching are waiting
are holding to hope
Like watchmen are waiting
for morning to come
I wait for the dawn
of your unfailing love**

**My body my spirit
my heart and my soul
Are watching are waiting
are holding to hope
Like watchmen are waiting
for morning to come
I wait for the dawn
of your unfailing love**

**Oh church arise
lift your head look up
For with the Lord
is unfailing love
Redemption comes
with the morning sun
So put your hope
in the risen one**

Text: CJ Armstrong | Kip Fox

Text: © 2021 CWL Music Kip Fox (Admin. by Fun Attic Music, LLC). Used by permission: CCLI no. 11180910

Invocation

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

- P** Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.
C **Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.**
- A** Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.
C **Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life!**
- P** Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
C **Your salvation according to Your promise.**

Confession and Absolution

- A** Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.
- C** **Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.**
- P** God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Song of Forgiveness "My Chains are Gone" SSP 39

**My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace**

Text: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

Text: © 2006 Sixsteps Music, admin. Capitol CMG Publishing CCLI Song # 4768151. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11180910

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

Faithful God, whose grace attends us all our days, look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Direct our steps into pathways of peace and lead us to discover all that is good and right and true. Preserve us in Your righteousness and at last bring us to Your eternal kingdom where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

First Lesson

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." . . .

³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Song "Love in a Box"

**Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a box,
love in a box, love in a box.**

**Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a box
'Cause His love-'ll keep a bubblein' through.**

**Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a jar,
love in a jar, love in a jar.**

**Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a jar
'Cause His love-'ll keep a bubble'in through.**

**Oh, you can't keep Jesus shut in the grave,
Shut in the grave, shut in the grave.**

**Oh, you can't keep Jesus shut in the grave
Cause He rose again on Easter Morn!**

**So I'll just keep Jesus' love in my heart,
Love in my heart, love in my heart
So I'll just keep Jesus' love in my heart
And his love'll keep a bubblin' through.**

Text: traditional

Text: Public domain

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005066

Message “Discovering What is Good and Right and True” *Ephesians 5:8–14*
"Title"

Prayer of the Church

A Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, especially Jamie Holtzman, Vicki Sargent, Chuck Senecol, Lennie Sprayberry, Deane Peters, John McCarty, Allison White, Eddie Musgrave, Erik Peterson, Dave Peterson, Janice Sessum, Jason Taylor, Kirk Ruhberg, Sara Rothan, Jeanette Henriques, Nathan Pittman, Andy Puls, Barbara Murphy, Kathy Carlson, Dan Benson, Tammy Tolbert, Tisha Robinson and for the Krueger family as they mourn the loss of loved ones. . Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully served. Give courage and diligence to all who work to defend liberties and life, and to those who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Grant Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Jim & Anne Rowe, Melissa & Olivia Ruhberg, Kirk & Shari Ruhberg, Gretchen & Mack Sloan. Bless the children of our CLC Vivian, Zenley, Alex, Campbell, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. Gather and bless us in Mid-Week Lent worship as we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray....

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offertory "Psalm 141" Trombone Duet - John Rosenboom and Tracy Lindsay

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

- A** As we prepare to receive the Sacrament of Christ's True Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins, let us humbly confess what we believe regarding this Sacrament and our approach to it:
- C I believe and confess that I sin often. I am responsible for my sins. I am truly sorry for them and I desire to redirect my life by God's grace.**
- C I am not withholding forgiveness nor harboring bitterness with anyone.**
- C I believe that Jesus is truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion- in, with, and under the bread and wine - His Body and Blood - for the forgiveness of my sins.**
- C I believe I am coming together with fellow Christians who are united in faith and doctrine concerning this Sacrament.**
- P** If this is what you believe then I invite you to come forward to share the true Body and Blood of our Savior under these elements of bread and wine. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms as a sign to receive a blessing only.

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- A** Lord God Almighty, we bless You for the gift of light eternal that is ours in Christ Jesus, who has called us into the brilliance of His eternal kingdom. Now gathered at Your Table, grant that we be strengthened in faith toward You and in active love for one another as we await Your final coming in glory. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify us, leading us into discovering what is good and right and true and renewing us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving.
- C Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

+ PREPARING OUR HEARTS +

Song of Preparation "We Proclaim Your Death" SSP 9

L The Mystery of Faith

**C We proclaim your death, O Lord,
And profess your Resurrection
until you come again**

Text: Marty Haugen

Text: © 19990 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11180910

SSP 10 Lamb of God

L Lamb of God,

**C You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

L Lamb of God,

**C You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

L Lamb of God,

**C You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.**

Text: Tony Alonso

Text: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11180910

Distribution Song "Give Us Clean Hands" SSP 93
(Praise Team sings this opening refrain once)

We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols

**Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob**

**We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols**

**Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob**

**Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob**

Text: Charlie Hall

Text: © 2000 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). Used by permission: CCLI no. 11180910

**Distribution Hymn "The Lamb" LSB 547
The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain**

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. Refrain**

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain**

**He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain**

**He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. Refrain**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953

Text: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005066

**Song of Blessing "Lord Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LSB 937
Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.**

**This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.**

**With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.**

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948

Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005066

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

A Let us pray.

Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen us through this Holy Meal in faith toward You and in caring love toward one another as we live out our callings. With Your loving grace, hear our prayers and grant all that is best for us according to Your caring will. Grant us Your abiding peace as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, we pray.

C Amen.

+ WE DEPART IN HIS PEACE +

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

A The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Song "Take My Life and Let It Be" SSP 56

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**You have brought me
From death to life
I was lost and you found me
Do what is good in your sight
Through this body you've set free**

**Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.**

**You have brought me
From death to life
I was lost and you found me
Do what is good in your sight
Through this body you've set free**

**Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

**You have brought me
From death to life
as lost and you found me
Do what is good in your sight
Through this body you've set free**

Text: Chorus by Heather Rasch; Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
Text: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2020
Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.