

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 22, 2020

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



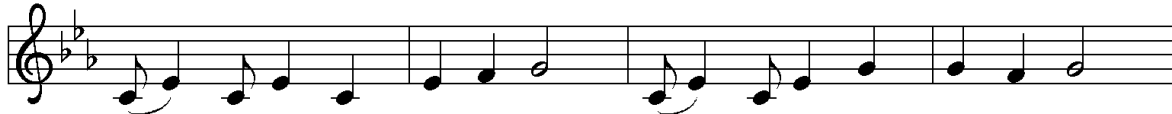
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

A LITANY OF SORROW & SIN

Sung Kyrie (verse 1):



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Hear our lament, tenderhearted God. Receive our petitions, benevolent God.
Forgive us our sins, preserve us from evil, and protect us in death.
Support us, mighty God.

We have honored false gods, desecrated your name, devalued worship,
disdained our elders, harmed both neighbors and nature,
misused sexuality, cheated and stolen, lied and slandered,
and coveted what you have given to others.

Forgive us, loving God.

Sung Christe (verse 2)

From wrecking your creation, from contaminating space,
from polluting the air, from endangering the animals,
from abusing the soil, from harming the plants, and from fouling the waters,
Deliver us, merciful God.

From nuclear destruction, from war between the nations,
from strife within our country, from political repression,
from prejudice and injustice, from riots in our streets,
and from domestic violence,

Rescue us, gracious God.

Sung Kyrie (verse 1)

From plague and disease, from hunger and thirst, from injury and infirmity,
from unemployment and homelessness, from ignorance and despair,
from loneliness and fear, and from early or painful death,
Protect us, compassionate God.

Loving God, merciful, gracious, compassionate,
remember your promise to save:
remember Cain, saved from revenge;
remember Noah, saved from the flood;
remember Hagar, saved from thirst;
remember the Israelites, saved from slavery;
remember Ruth, saved from starvation;
and remember Naaman, saved from disease.
Remember your promise, O God.

Sung Christe (verse 2)

Loving God, merciful, gracious, compassionate, we are the needy:
we are Adam and Eve, expelled from the garden;
we are Joseph, abandoned by his brothers;
we are the slaves, pleading for freedom;
we are Miriam, struck with leprosy;
we are David, mourning our children;
we are Jeremiah, alone in the pit;
and we are Esther, begging for justice.
Save the needy, O God.

We implore you, faithful God, to receive our petitions,
as you hear the prayers of your Son, as you heed the groaning of your Spirit.
Have mercy, O God.

Sung Kyrie (verse 1)

Litany by Gail Ramshaw, adapted by Pastor A. Bengfort
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ Word +

READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from First Samuel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.


Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN

Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain
All




Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

death in - to life. to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 to stanza 4

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
 lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed 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.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

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. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

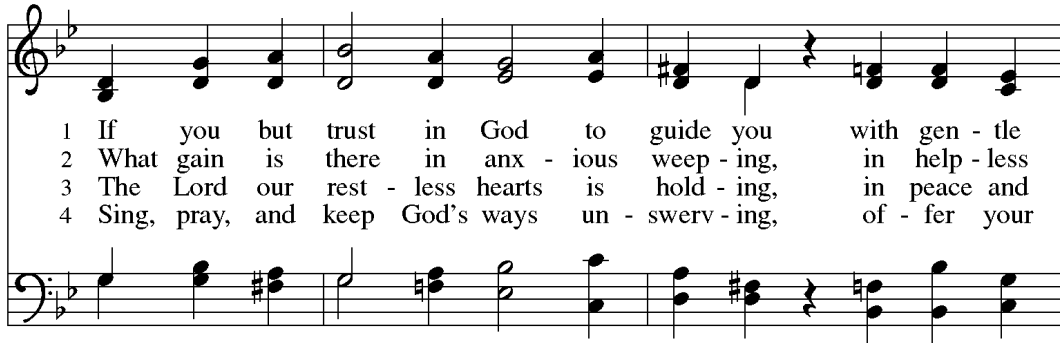
³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

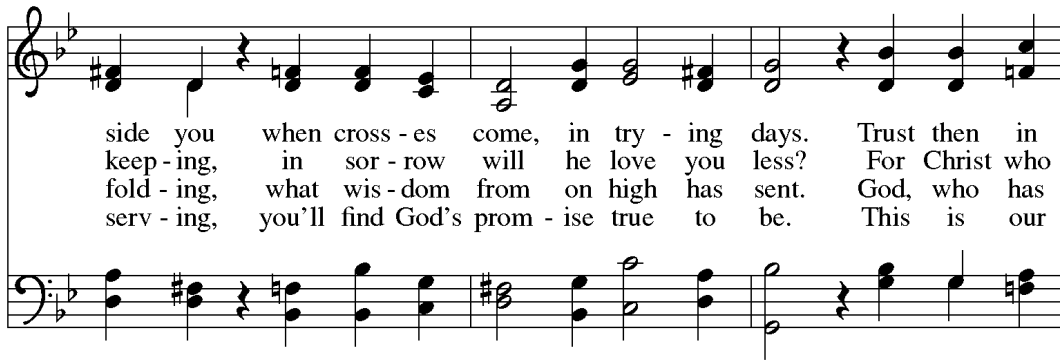
If You But Trust in God to Guide You



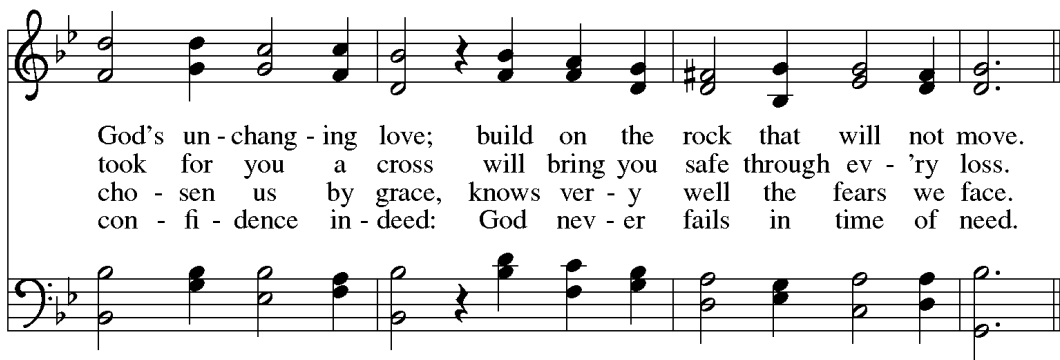
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

+ Thanksgiving +

OFFERTORY

Please visit stjohnswilmette.org/give to donate online!

Written checks can be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mailed to
1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

+ Sending +

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God, ✠ Speaking, Spoken, and Inspiring,
bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

IN OUR PRAYERS

Let us pray for the family of Ingrid Johnson, the family of Paul Hoffmann, the family of Matthew Green, Michael Rager (*Christi Wise*), Virginia Milnikel, Buck Crist, Bob Oakes, Lani Miller, Doug Peters, Linda Bengfort, Fred Rudolfi, Steve Aschbacher (*Bill Kaspar*), the officers of the Rogers Park police district, Greyson Nester, the family of Tom Wendel, the family of Jean Prange, Dave & Sydney Fishburn (*Dave Brunn*), Chad Johnson, Ellie Basnik and Ross Johnson (*Chad Johnson*), the family of Paul Escamilla (*Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh*), Richard Thompson (*Sue Stanfa*), Sydney Johnson and her work, Mark Voosen, Margaux Tauszig (*Wolf Peddinghaus*), Ed Price (*Sarah Rink*), Jody Kretzmann (*Peter Nobel*), Jessica Sandoval (*the Radde family*).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Virtual Coffee Hour

After today's online worship service, all will be invited to turn on your cameras (if applicable) and visit with one another. This holy chaos will give us an opportunity to hear each other's voices and check in during this time of physical separation.

Rooted in Relationships Meeting

Our next team meeting is Tuesday at 7 pm via Zoom. Contact information will be sent to team members. Email Pastor Allison if you would like to join the group.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Our next meeting is Thursday at 4 pm via Zoom. Connection information will be sent to committee members.

Book Club

The Women's Book Club has selected "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee. This epic historic novel & National Book Award Winner will be discussed when current circumstances change.

Calendar

Have a question about whether an upcoming event has been cancelled or moved to an online format? Check our calendar at <http://stjohnswilmette.org/calendar-1> for the most up-to-date information!