

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19th, 2023

10 a.m.

Find page numbers in the front of the ELW  
(red hymnal), and hymns in the back.

**Bold**=All

\*Please stand as you are able

### PRELUDE

“Sketch No. 1,” Op. 58, by Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

### GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

† forgives you in Christ’s name,

and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**Amen.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

ELW Hymn 339

### \*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.**

### \*KYRIE

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### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

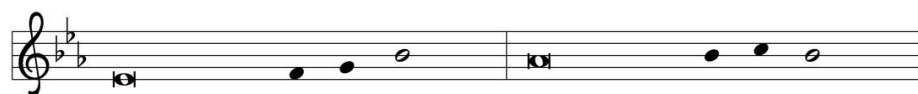
#### FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

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.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit  
down until he comes here.” 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.**

### PSALMODY: Psalm 26



The LORD | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

**2The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

3You restore my | soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name’s sake.

**4Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall | fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort**

**me.**

5You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of  
my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

### SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

8Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as  
children of light—9for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and  
right and true. 10Try to find out 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 mention what such people do secretly; 13but  
everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14for everything that  
becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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### \*Gospel: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to Saint 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

**“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”**

**ELW Hymn 520**

*Introduction by Richard Hillert*

### \*APOSTLES CREED

**ELW Page 105**

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

... We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### \*PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY

“Into Your Kingdom” by Joe Galyon

### \*OFFERING SONG

**“Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

**ELW Hymn 187**

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## MEAL

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

**ELW page 161**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

### SANCTUS: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

**ELW page 162**

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...and be given our inheritance with all your saints. **Amen.**

### \*LORD’S PRAYER

**ELW page 163**

### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*At the direction of the usher, please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available upon request, and you may choose wine (red) or alcohol-free juice (white). To receive communion at your seat, simply notify an usher. All who seek to receive Jesus in bread and cup are welcome to dine at this table.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Amazing Grace,” by Douglas E. Bush (1947-2013)

Based on ELW 779

### \*TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. **Amen.**

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*BLESSING

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.  
**Amen.**

### \*SENDING HYMN

**“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW Hymn 843**

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Be Thou My Vision,” by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Based on ELW 793

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