

# Fourth Sunday In Lent

## March 19th, 2023

### Order of Service

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7 :45 Hymns - 849, 551, 433

10:30 Hymns - 425, 551, 849, 433, 841

### Sermon

"What are your blind spots?"

John 9:1-39

*Rev. Wes Gillaspe*

### Scripture Readings

*Isaiah 42:16-21:* And 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. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who 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? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

*Ephesians 5:8-14:* For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

*John 9:1-39:* As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." So he went and washed and came back seeing. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees 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." Some 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. So 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." The Jews called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He 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?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing!

You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that the blind may see, and those who may become blind."

### Serving in Worship Today

Elders . . . . . *Ted Bauer*

*Matt Brown, Dave Miller, Mark Frank*

Organist . . . . . *Dr. Jon Eifert*

Choirs . . . . . *Handbells*

Usher Captains . . . . . *Jeff Buchinger*

*Alan Kischnick*

Altar Guilds . . *Bev Bierlein, Linda Trombley*

Acolytes . . . . . *Joe Britton, Eli Zwerk*

### Wednesday

Elder . . . . . *Wayne Bierlein*

Pianist . . . . . *Dr. Jon Eifert*

Choirs . . . . . *Cherub*

Usher . . . . . *Alan Kischnick*

*Calls:* Pastor Nitzel has declined our call. His letter is on the bulletin board. The Call Committee will review the list and bring their recommendations to the Voters at a future date.

*Lenten Worship:* continues this Wednesday at 7:00 as the thief on the cross asks the Son of God to remember him when Jesus comes into his kingdom. A Lenten supper will be served at 5:30.

*Our Lenten Supper:* The Adult Choir is hosting this week's Lenten Supper. Come and enjoy a delicious meal of ham, salads and desserts! Donations will help support the Vassar Food Pantry.

*Executive Board:* meeting Sunday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m.

*Lutherans Laymen's League* will be meeting tomorrow, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. where Wesley Reinbold will be speaking and showing slides of Frankentrost. Refreshments will be served and All are invited!

*Spring Break:* Pastor Gillaspie's Sunday Bible Class will not meet on March 26th. No Kidzmin on March 26th and April 2st as this is spring break week.

*Passion Drama Setup:* Those that would like to help with setup of the Passion Drama, we plan to meet March 25th at the church shed at 9am. We will be getting stuff down from upstairs in the shed and moving some of the

props to the church. We hope to see you there!

*Easter Cards:* are available on the card counter near the office for \$0.50.

*Endowment Applications* are due at the end of March. You can pick one up in the church office or from an Endowment Committee member. Please check with Ed Roedel if you have any questions.

*THRIVENT MEMBERS:* If you haven't already done so, you can still direct 2022 Choice Dollars through MARCH 31, 2023. Don't miss your opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back. If you have any questions, you can call Pam Mossner 989-239-6999.

*Youth 7th-12th Grade:* Our service project for the month of March is going to once again be St. Michael's passion drama. We challenge our youth to either volunteer to help with it and/or attend it. Passion Drama will be March 31st and April 1st. It will also be presented inside the church again this year. Look below for more information.

*Passion Drama:* March 31st at 6:00 and 7:30; April 1st at 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30. It will be inside the church. There are sign-up sheets in the foyer. You can put your sign-up sheet in the box at the entrance of church, or in Leona Doud's mailbox. If you want to sign up by e-mail send to firefighterdoud@gmail.com. We hope

many of you will participate as we tell the story of our Savior's suffering and death!

*VBS:* Mark your calendars for VBS July 10-13th, evenings. Free dinner will be served each night. Volunteers are needed in various areas. Teens are also welcome to help, and get volunteer service hours. Please contact Heather Reinbold 989-577-0013 if willing to help.

*Church Services Online:* You can listen to an audio recording of the previous Sunday's worship service at [stmichaelsrichville.org](http://stmichaelsrichville.org). Click on "Connect" and then on "Service."

*Cemetery Decorations:* All wreaths or decorations should be removed by March 31st. If not, the cemetery board will remove and dispose of them.

*I would like to thank everyone for their support during my open heart surgery! Your thoughts, prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls were very much appreciated during the whole process as well as my continued recovery at home. Special thanks to Pastor Gillaspie for his hospital and home visits! Thank you again and God's blessings to you all! - Dennis Gruber*

#### Attendance

March 12<sup>th</sup>: 273

March 15<sup>th</sup>: 158

#### This week at St. Michael's

Today . . . . . *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Worship Service 7:45 a.m.  
*Bible Classes/Kidz Min* 9 a.m.  
Communion 10:30 a.m.  
Mon . . . . . *LLL* 7 p.m.  
Wed . . . . . Lenten Supper 5:30 p.m.  
*Handbells* 6 p.m.  
Communion 7 p.m.  
Thurs . . . . . *Adult Choir* 7 p.m.  
Fri . . . . . Rummage Sale 9-5p.m.  
Sat . . . . . *Rummage Sale* 9-1p.m.  
Sun . . . . . *Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Communion 7:45 a.m.  
*Worship Service* 10:30 a.m.  
Executive Board 6 p.m.

Church Office . . . . . 989-868-4791  
New website . . . . . [stmichaelsrichville.org](http://stmichaelsrichville.org)  
Email . . . . . [church@stmichaelsrichville.org](mailto:church@stmichaelsrichville.org)  
School Office . . . . . 989-868-4809  
Child Care . . . . . 989-868-3830

#### Other News

The Lutheran Hour airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. The sermon for next Sunday: "Is God Missing in Action?" Rev. Dr. John Nunes. Is God "missing in action?" Not if we see things from God's eternal perspective. (John 11)

## Prayers

### Health

*Marion Gugel, Mary Free Bed; Linda Gray*  
- University of Michigan,

*Edna Michael* (cancer), North Carolina,  
Lois Bierlein, knee surgery;  
*Mary Ann Mossner, Wanda Reinert,*  
*Brenda MacKay,* Health conditions

#### Surgery

*Lois Bierlein* (knee surgery)

#### Thanksgiving

*Miles Alan Parrent, born March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
*(Eli & Melissa (Schoenow) Parrent)*

#### Missions

John and Erica Tape serve the Lord as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Latin America and Caribbean region, based in the Dominican Republic. As regional business manager, John assists the regional director in managing the financial and business affairs of the LCMS.

#### Prayer of the Day

"Heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning.

Even though we do not deserve Your goodness You still provide for our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for all Your blessings, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen."