

# *Triune Lutheran Church*



*Fourth Sunday in Lent*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here  
at Triune Lutheran Church, a  
family united by our Lord, Jesus  
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

## *Worship*

- The \* by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

## **\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who is present, who gives life,  
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen!**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet, with you, is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we have turned away from you,**  
**knowingly and unknowingly.**  
**We have wandered from your resurrection life.**  
**We have strayed from your love for all people.**  
**Turn us back to you, O God.**  
**Give us new hearts and right spirits,**  
**that we may find what is pleasing to you**  
**and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive this good news: God has already turned to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.  
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,  
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you!  
**Amen!**

# \*GATHERING HYMN

## “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

ELW 802



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.  
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## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

We know you hear our prayers, Lord Christ, as you continue to live among us. By your gracious life and death for the whole world, bring your brightest light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your grace, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

## **FIRST READING**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The 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.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel 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.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite 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.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel 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?” <sup>5</sup>He 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.

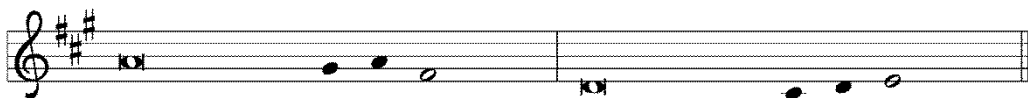
<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the

LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel 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.” <sup>12</sup>He 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.” <sup>13</sup>Then 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.

The word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM

Psalm 23



<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

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

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's  
sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Though 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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my  
enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running  
over.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely 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

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.  
Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in  
all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is  
pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of  
darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even  
to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything  
exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that  
becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

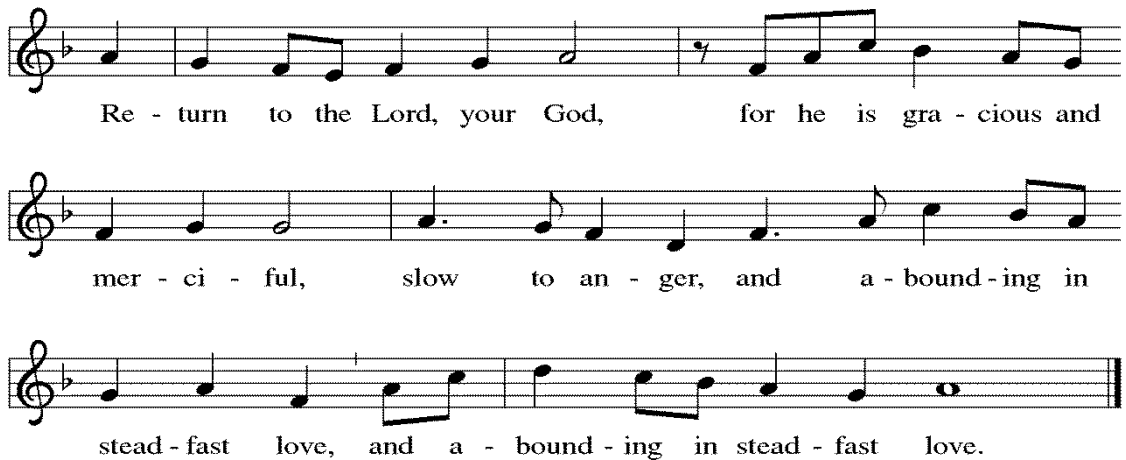
“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

The holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The 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?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He 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.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then 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.” <sup>16</sup>Some 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. <sup>17</sup>So 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.”

<sup>18</sup>The 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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but 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.” <sup>22</sup>His 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. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So 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.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>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?” <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

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

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

ELW 445



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa - ters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nur - ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im - ag - ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go.  
Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread.  
To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor - ship, praise!



Weave them gar - ments bright and spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light.  
God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born.



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.  
one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we  
pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of insight, open the hearts of your whole church for us all to testify to your deeds of power in our life. Raise up voices that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Universal God, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day, including Bev & Bill Deitrick, Tim Mize, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Rosa Arias, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, John & Jean Kurtz, Matthew Loede, Mary Phillips, Courtney Spencer, Cicellia Taurus, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to health and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for all your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

### \*PEACE


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

## OFFERING

### \*OFFERING HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186



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 to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Holy and generous host,  
you set a table where we feast as friends.  
Prepare us to witness to your goodness  
with every gift you have given us to share,  
that all people may know your peace  
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.  
**Amen!**

## **\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

## **\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast;  
that renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
And so, 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:



## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out yourself as the Holy Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.

**Amen!**

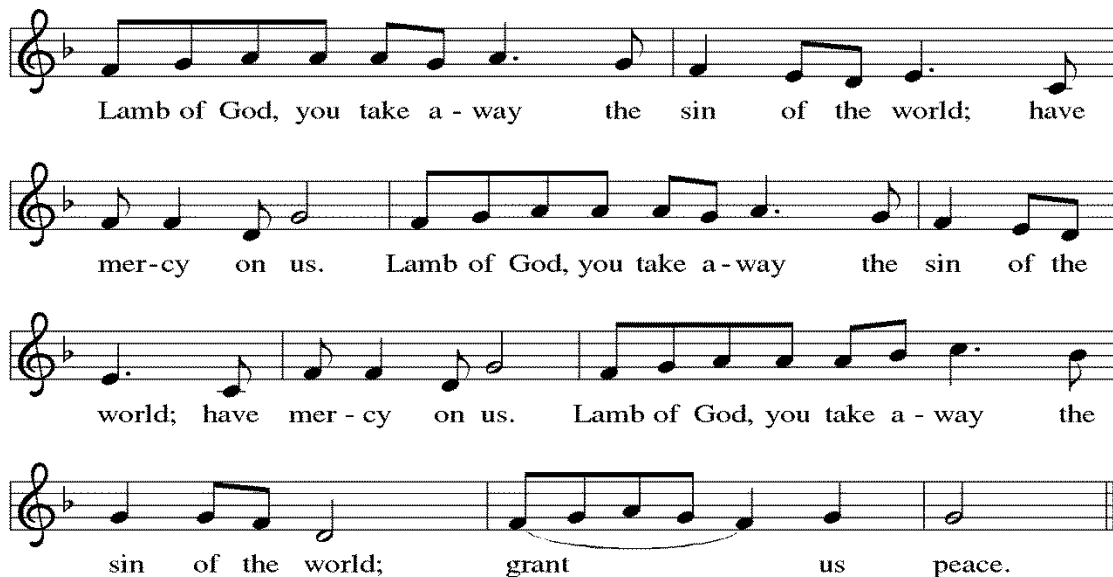
## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**God's love is poured out in Christ for you.  
Come and receive this free gift of new life!  
Thanks be to God!**

## \*COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

### \*COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, living God,  
for the body and blood of your Son,  
which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.  
As Christ has loved us in this feast,  
so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen!**

## \***BLESSING**

Now is the acceptable time.  
Now is the day of salvation.  
Holy God,  
speaking and inspiring,  
✠ bless you, unbind you,  
and send you in love and in peace!  
**Amen!**

## \***SENDING HYMN**

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

ELW 333

## \***DISMISSAL**

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

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Ministers: ***All People***  
Pastor: ***Brad Ross***  
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***  
Worship Leader: ***Dale Kirk***  
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***


# Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

*Refrain - All*




Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a  
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

*Leader or All*




1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a  
2 When Je - sus was on earth, . . . . . the . .  
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -  
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -  
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

*Refrain*



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

## *On Seeing...and Not Seeing*



I believe the sine qua non of the Spirit working in the life of a Christian and a Christian community is the convicting that God perceives the world differently than humans do. Paul wrote that God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong, the foolish things to shame the wise and the lowly, despised things to shame the things that are established (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). The good news is that God grants sight and vision so we can start to perceive the world as God does. That is the work of God's Spirit: helping us to see creation, events and our neighbors as God sees them. This week's lectionary has several stories of God helping humans to see.

The story of David being anointed as king over Israel shows how Samuel gradually saw kingship, and indeed, humans, as God does. Samuel was in mourning over Saul's flagrant disobedience and God's rejection of this king (1 Samuel 16:1). God called on Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint a new king but didn't tell him which of Jesse's children had been chosen. When Samuel arrived and saw Eliab, who was apparently quite tall and impressive physically, he thought, "This must be the new king" (16:6-7). After all, what had stood out about King Saul was not his character, but that he was a really tall, physically impressive person, taller than everyone else in the nation (1 Samuel 9:2). Essentially, Saul was the Israelite Goliath—a tall warrior/leader.

So Samuel could be forgiven for seeing tall and strong Eliab and thinking that he was going to be the next king. But God told Samuel that God doesn't see as do mortals, who look at outside appearances. Instead, God looks at the heart of a person (1 Samuel 16:7). Indeed, when David was finally brought to see Samuel, he was young and quite pretty, which wasn't a positive evaluation of a person intended to be a military leader. Nevertheless, after Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord came upon the new king mightily from that day on (16:13).

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*The good news is that God grants sight and vision so we can start to perceive the world as God does. That is the work of God's Spirit: helping us to see creation, events and our neighbors as God sees them.*

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Hundreds of years later, Jesus performed a miracle of giving sight to a blind man. He restored the man's eyes by making mud on the Sabbath, an intentionally provocative act (John 9:6). This miracle happens at the very beginning of this story, but there is an ongoing theme of blindness to seeing Jesus as he is that persists throughout this passage. Jesus challenged his interlocutors to see him as the messiah, who is able to give sight to the blind.



Giving sight to the blind, even more than raising someone from the dead (like Elijah and Elisha), was an indisputable sign of the messiah (John 9:33 and 11:37). Several Pharisees understood this sign as it was intended and confessed Jesus as the promised messiah, while others did not (9:16). Yet, the giving of sight to a blind man wasn't an easy sign to dismiss. Some Pharisees, particularly, had a difficult time reconciling this amazing sign of God's power with what they understood as an intentional undertaking of prohibited Sabbath work. They interviewed the people involved repeatedly to understand how a man could both perform *the* messianic sign of giving sight to the blind and, apparently, break the Sabbath.

Jesus seems to have preferred to be intentionally confounding, saying that he both came to give sight to the blind and to bring blindness to those who see (9:39). Even the Pharisees who were with him (9:40) wondered what Jesus meant by this. Jesus closed this story by saying that those who cannot see do not sin, but those who claim to see, sin. This isn't a pointed indictment of the Pharisees, as much as a clear reference to the position of all humanity after the consuming of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Before Adam and Eve ate of the tree, there was no sin. But after their eyes were opened, they knew sin. Jesus called those with him, and us, to refuse blindness to our own sin, and to turn to him, the only one who can free us from sin.

In Ephesians, Paul assumes that the people reading his letter have begun to see as God sees. If they can now see clearly, they should do works that are good, right and true (Ephesians 5:9). More than that, they and we are to work to expose everything that goes on in secret and is hidden to the light so that it becomes visible (5:13). We are called to see the world and each other as God sees, and to help others to see as well.



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