

## **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live in Christ's light, even in the darkest valley. Trust that he is able to open your eyes, enabling you to walk by faith in his name. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

## **Praying Together**

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:**

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Dan Fleming, Bill Flick, Eddie Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

### **Last Week**

**General Fund receipts for Lenten offerings 40.00**

**General Fund receipts for week ending 3/8/2026:\$ 603.00**



# **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**9:00 am**

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk \* indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

### Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev, Andrea Mcdonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Allan Treichel
Lector	Mary Kaye Bernardo
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos

### Sending Hymn: Be Though My Vision ELW# 793



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!



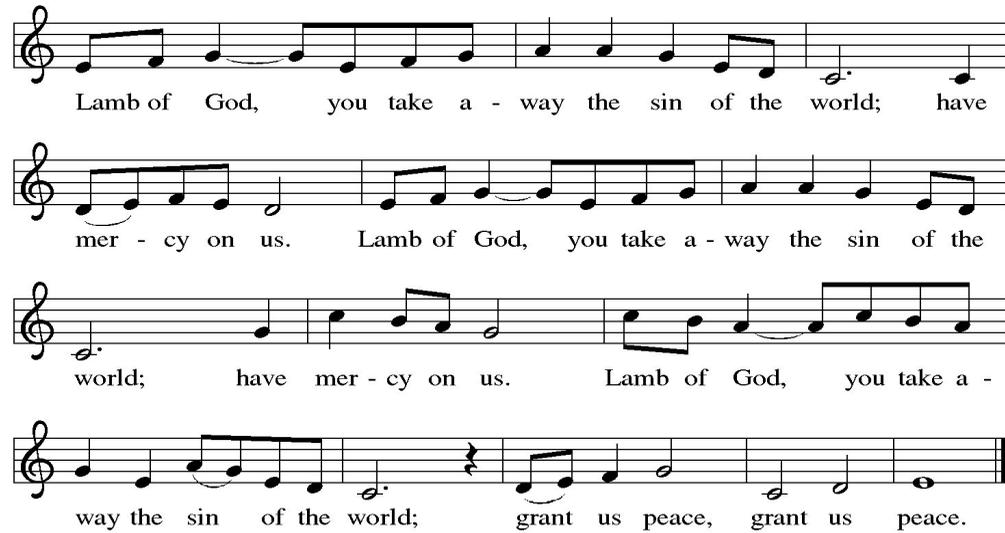
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



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.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## 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, grant us peace.

### \*Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, you have fed us at your table. We have received the bread and the cup, your presence planted in us like a seed in winter ground. Send us now to live these days nourished, honest, and unafraid. We trust that what you have planted shall rise, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### \*Blessing

May the love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you, and the Holy Spirit keep you; as you dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long. **Amen.**

## Fourth Sunday in Lent— March 15, 2026

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### Litany: A Special Lenten Fast

- Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
- Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
- Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
- Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
- Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
- Give up complaining: value what you have.
- Give up stress: take up prayer.
- Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
- Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
- Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
- Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
- Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

— anonymous, Latin America. Posted on the CAFOD website

**Prelude: Amazing Grace**

**United Handbell Choir**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Gracious God,  
we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

The scriptures assure us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ. We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us. Amen.

## **\*Communion Prayer**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Christ taught us

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

## \*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.**

Holy One, in this dry and weary land

we give you thanks and praise.

You provide for us in our need;

you set a table for us in the wilderness.

Even when we despair and complain against you,

you feed us with bread from heaven.

Even when we quarrel and question your grace,

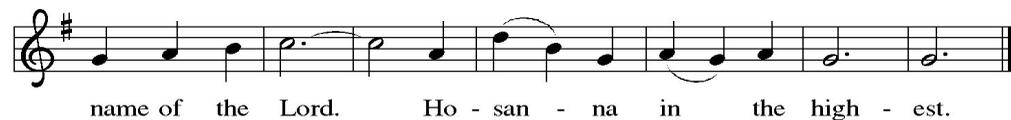
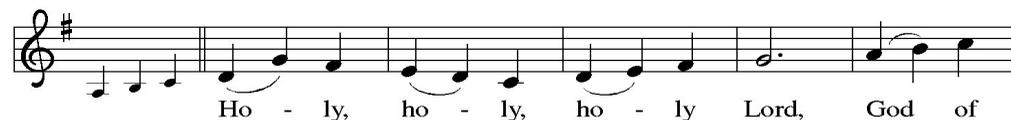
you give us water from a stone.

How can we keep silent?

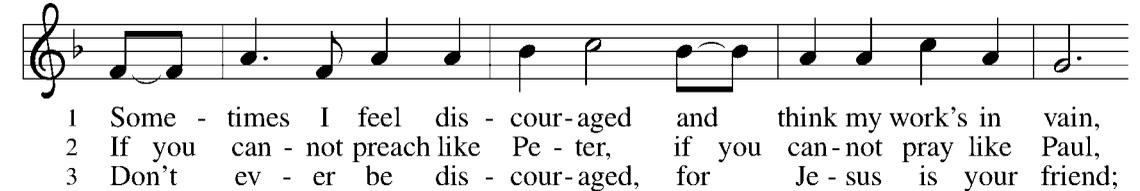
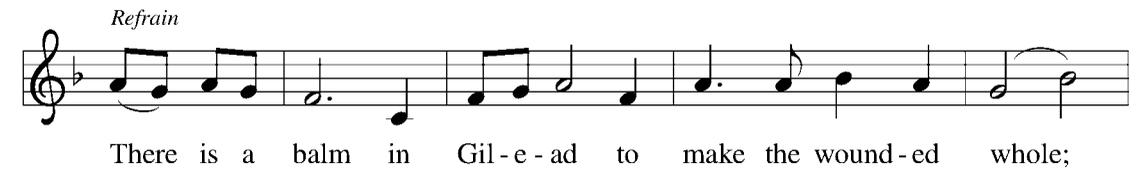
Even dry bones in the valley of death

stand to sing your praise:

## \*Sanctus



## \*Gathering Hymn: There is a Balm in Gilead ELW # 614



Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

**\*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.**

## \*Prayer of the Day

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”; that we may also say, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. **Amen.**

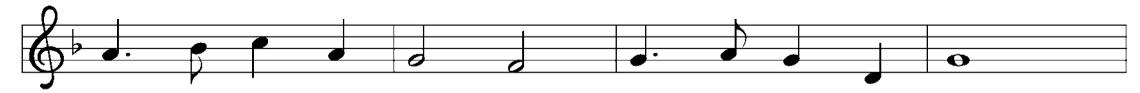
## Children’s Moment

### 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 his 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

## \*Offertory Hymn: In The Bleak Midwinter ELW # 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## \*Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Tend what we offer as seeds planted in faith. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

**God of light**, we give thanks for all who have died in the faith and now dwell in your eternal light [especially *names*]. Grant us faith to walk in the light until that day when we join them in your presence, where there is no more darkness. Shine upon us, O God. **Your light never fails.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and the light of Christ that shines in all darkness.

**Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

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 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>l</sup> is my shepherd;

I shall not<sup>l</sup> be in want.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>l</sup>  
fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>l</sup> comfort**

**me. R**

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

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>l</sup> of my  
life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>l</sup> LORD forever.**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk 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; rather, 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



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**God of light**, you spoke and the sun rose to give light to all creation. We pray for this planet — for seeds waiting in darkness to be touched by light, for creatures who depend on the rhythms of day and night. We pray for communities devastated by flooding in Australia, by wildfires, by deadly heat in Europe. We pray for those displaced by floods in the Congo and for ecosystems collapsing under climate stress. Open our eyes to the gift of creation and give us courage to protect it. Shine upon us, O God. **Your light never fails.**

**God of light**, you see what is hidden in darkness. We pray for the escalating war in the Middle East where hundreds of thousands have been displaced in recent days. We pray for families fleeing violence in Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. We pray for the millions of refugees and stateless people worldwide. Raise up leaders who will govern with integrity and vision. Bring your light to those in darkness. Shine upon us, O God. **Your light never fails.**

**God of light**, you see us — truly see us — when the world looks away. We pray for all who walk in darkness: those grieving, those sick in body or mind, those living with disability, those made to feel invisible or worthless. We pray for refugees who have lost access to medical care and protection. We pray for families sleeping in cars, fleeing violence with nothing but what they could carry. Give sight to those who cannot see hope. Give hope to those who feel unseen. Shine upon us, O God. **Your light never fails.**

**God of light**, you have planted seeds of faith in this community, and you give light for them to grow. Water what we have planted here in our church. Tend the hopes and prayers buried in winter soil. Shine your light on what you are growing in us. Shine upon us, O God. **Your light never fails.**

## \*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 the People

Trusting in the light of Christ that shines in all darkness, let us pray  
for the church, the world, and all in need.

**God of light**, you have called the church to be light in the world.  
Guide your people to live as children of light — bearing fruit in good-  
ness, righteousness, and truth. We pray for the new Archbishop of  
Canterbury as she leads through division, for Christians facing perse-  
cution in the Middle East, and for all who proclaim your gospel in  
places of darkness. Shine through us into the dark places. Shine upon  
us, O God. **Your light never fails.**

## \*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 dis-  
ciples 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  
he." <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 Sab-  
bath." 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, 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 who were with 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Christ!

## Sermon

### \*Hymn of the Day: Arise Your Light Has Come ELW # 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893  
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