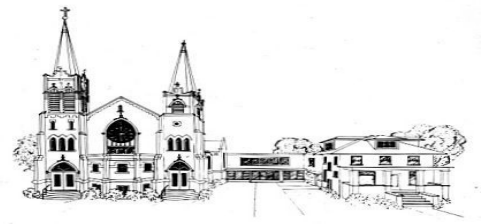


# Faith At Home

## Sunday, March 22



### Confession and Forgiveness

*A family practice*

*Each family member can read the confession. Take turns reading the words of forgiveness to each other:*

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my family, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen

**The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen**

### The Apostles' Creed

Unified in our baptism, we confess our faith:

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

### Praying

*A family practice*

*Have every member of the family write a prayer to God, naming one of the following themes:*

*Creation*

*Those who are sick*

*Those dealing with the fears of the pandemic*

*Those dealing with the loss of loved ones*

*Those serving in the military*

*Those serving in positions of leadership*

*Are there other concerns you need to name?*

*After you write these prayers share them aloud with one another.*

### The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

# This Week In God's Word — Fourth Sunday in Lent

## Hearing God's Word

*Take time as a family to open the Bible and read these stories together. Take turns reading. Do not be afraid of words, like names, that you are unfamiliar with. Say it like you mean it.*

### The First Reading                      1 Samuel 16:1-13

*God surprises Samuel by choosing David, the youngest of 8 sons of Jesse, to become the next king of Israel, replacing Saul who has not been a faithful king.*

### The Psalm                                      Psalm 23

### The Second Reading                      Ephesians 5:8-14

*Paul writes about the light which God has given to us, and encourages us to live according to this light.*

### The Gospel                                      John 9:1-41

*Jesus encounters a man born blind, and opens his eyes. While this man now sees Jesus, others become blind to seeing who Jesus really is.*

## A time of blessing

*When you have spent your time together, praying and listening to God's Word, take a moment to bless one another:*

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

## Family Check-In Time

*Give each other time to share*

What do you grieve/lament?

What do you celebrate?

## Insights from Scripture

This Sunday features a Gospel story in which Jesus encounters a man born blind. Jesus uses this encounter to demonstrate once more what it means to see. Sight is not merely a physical sense. It is a faithful sense as well. We may not be able to see Jesus physically stand before us, yet by faith, we can see Jesus all around us—we can see Jesus in those who need help; we can see Jesus in those providing help; we can see Jesus when we worship at church; we can see Jesus when we gather as a family in our homes and read his stories.

Take a moment as a family and talk about how the coronavirus pandemic clouds our vision, our ability to see clearly, our ability to see Jesus in others.

Then take a moment to talk about where you have seen Jesus in the world since the pandemic started. How can we help one another to see Jesus more clearly?

## Remembering Jesus when we eat

On Sunday, when you gather as a family for a meal, it can be appropriate to remember Jesus as you eat. This is not a replacement of Holy Communion, but telling the story reminds us that Jesus is with the whole Church, even as we are not gathered at the altar in our sanctuary.

Read these verses, say your dinner prayer, then eat in the joy of the Lord's presence.

*St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*