

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Reverend Chad Schopp, Pastor

Divine Service III

Hymn: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

LSB 909

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Kneel or stand as you are able

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie (p.186)

(The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, 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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;

I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And 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.

¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who 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?

²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 142 (LSB 142) (prayed responsively by whole verse)

Epistle: Ephesian 5:8-14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light
in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is
found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern
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 speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when
anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything
that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

(The Alleluia is omitted during Lent)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So 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. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.”

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 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.” ²²(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.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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?” ²⁸And 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, “Why, this is an amazing 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 if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would

have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Sit

Office hymn: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* LSB 849

Sermon

Stand

Offertory (p.192)

Sit

Collection of the Offering

Announcements

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord’s Prayer (*spoken*)

The Words of Institution (p.197)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Sit

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619

Glory Be to Jesus

LSB 433

By Grace I’m Saved

LSB 566

Stand

Nunc Dimittus (p.199)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Benedicamus & Benediction (p.201)

Hymn: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

LSB 743

Announcements

The president, elders and pastor met on Thursday and have made some decisions regarding our congregation's activities in regard to the COVID-19 outbreak. We are not to live in fear, nor are we to disregard our neighbor who still needs our help and support. There will be more in the April newsletter, but here is a summary:

We are not cancelling services. This in no way obligates anyone to come, but neither will we turn people away in the midst of such fear and uncertainty. We will utilize the different rooms and spaces in the church to prevent clustering. The sermons and bulletins will be put on the church website on Sundays for those who wish to remain at home. We are working on recording video of the services to put that on the website as well, but that may take a couple of weeks. The offering plate won't be passed around but you can put your gifts in the plate at the door.

Non-essential activities are being cancelled (LWML zone gathering, etc.). The Council Meeting will take place on the same date, but we hope to use video conferencing to help limit the number of people in attendance. The Voters Meeting on April 19 is cancelled.

If you have to stay home, stay home. If you have to go to work, go to work. We cannot allow ourselves to be ruled by fear. Others need us to not only support their physical needs (5th Commandment) but to share the message of hope that Christ Jesus has won for us. In Him we have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death has no dominion over Him and He will raise us on the last day in bodies incorruptable. The Church has weathered far worse than this and will survive this, too.

Bethlehem – Thank You: *We would like to thank everyone for all the cards and many warm wishes of sympathy at the passing of Elaine. Thank you also to our Ladies Aid and all others who helped prepare for the meal. You all did a wonderful job. A special thanks to Pastor Schopp for his daily visits and devotions with mom and our family. It gave us comfort during a very difficult time. Again, our thanks to everyone.* – The Family of Elaine Underwood.

St. John – Outreach: Thank you to everyone who donated time for Operation Care Package. If you donated, please sign the Thrivent Sign in sheet in the narthex.

St. John Bell Choir – Personalized baking pans are for sale to raise money to buy new chimes. Orders can be placed through members of the bell choir. See April newsletter for details.

Easter Lilies – We're not sure on the status of the Easter Lilies order. More to come...

Teaching Points

Cassock & Surplice: A cassock is a full-length, fitted black garment that is worn under other vestments. Originally this was daily wear for priests/pastors. The surplice is a flowing, white vestment worn over a cassock. The cassock/surplice combination is worn at the daily offices (Matins, Vespers, etc.). It is also the vestment frequently worn by other assistants (e.g., deacons, acolytes) and by choir members.

From the Small Catechism

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it _____.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise _____ and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and _____ it.

Hint: The Small Catechism starts on p.321 in the LSB