

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 15, 2026**  
**10:30 AM**

For you were once darkness,  
**BUT NOW**  
**YOU ARE LIGHT**  
in the Lord.  
Live as children of light.

EPHESIANS 5:8, NIV



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*  
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)

*The gospel for this Sunday is the story of a blind man healed by Christ. It is a profound image of our human condition: we seek after greater clarity and light. It is also a baptismal image of washing and receiving sight, of Christ's desire to enlighten us with the truth of who we are: God's beloved daughters and sons.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

## WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/ Remain Standing*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**GREETING OF PEACE** *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**HYMN**      **“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”** LSB 837

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa-nied by Thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise;      Tri-umph o'er the shades of night.  
Joy-less is the day's re-turn      Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine,      Scat-ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near;      Day-star, in my heart ap-pear.  
Till they in - ward light im-part,      Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
More and more Thy - self dis-play,      Shin-ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88  
Tune: attr. Johann G. Werner, 1777-1822; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

RATISBON  
77 77 77

Text and music: Public domain

*Jahn 8:12; Mal. 4:2; 2 Peter 1:19; Luke 1:78-79*

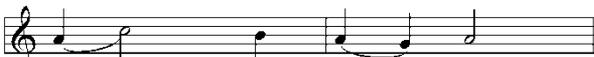
## KYRIE

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all **C** **And also with you.**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**   
Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**   
Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**   
Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**   
Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C**   
A - - - - - men.

*The HYMN OF PRAISE is traditionally omitted during Lent.*

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

**P** God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

*Children are invited to meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*In chapter 15, Saul's failings have finally caused the Lord to regret having made Saul king over Israel. Now, the Lord directs the prophet Samuel to see to the replacement of Saul, who was made king by popular acclamation of the people. The new king, this time chosen by God, is a simple shepherd boy from Judah.*

**R** 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." 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.' 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." 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?" 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.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." 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." 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." 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.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON** Ephesians 5:8-14

*The letter to the Ephesians teaches that through baptism Christians live in God's light. Therefore, we ought to live by doing those things that reflect the light of Christ.*

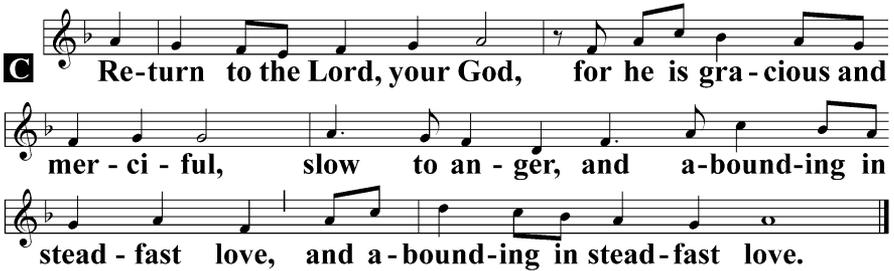
**R** Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light--for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

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

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**C**  **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** **P** The Gospel is written in John chapter 9, beginning at verse 1.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**P** As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" So the man went and washed, and came home seeing." "They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you".

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

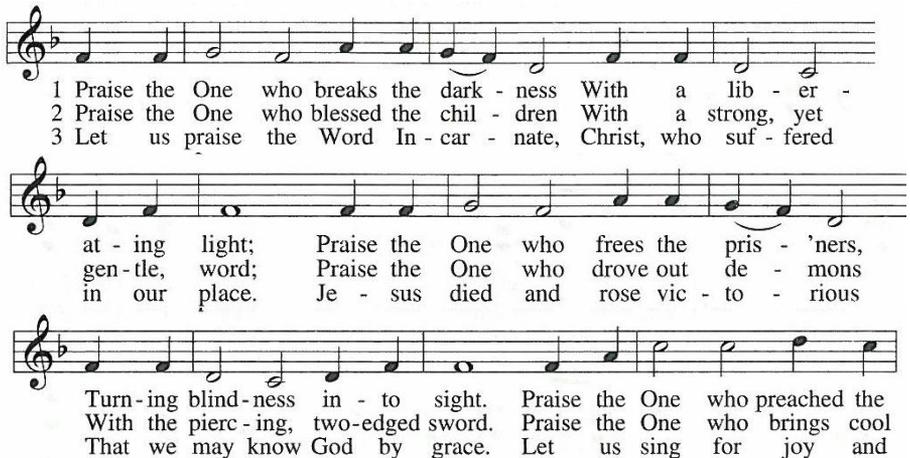
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

## MESSAGE "See The Light"

*Stand*

## HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered  
at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious  
Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us  
 storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
 Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.  
 Tune: Public domain

BEACH SPRING  
 87 87 D

Luke 4:16-21; Mark 10:13-16; John 1:1, 14, 29; 4:5-14

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING

*You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*

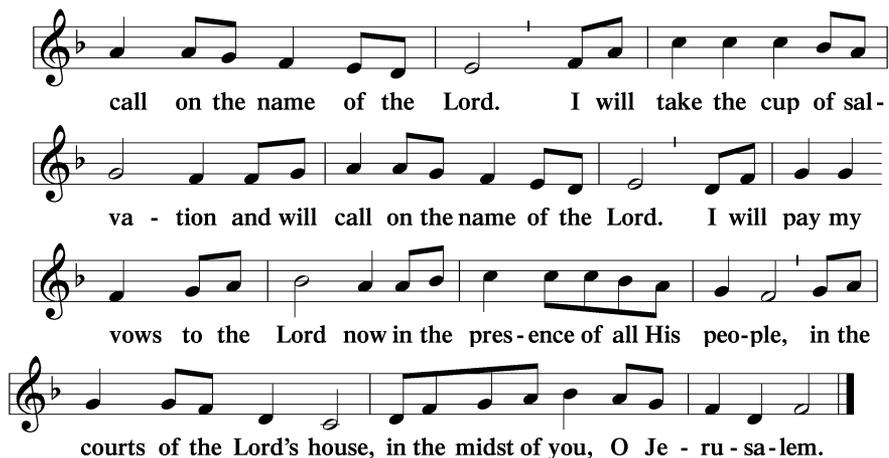


## OFFERTORY MUSIC

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to  
 me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

**P** Let us pray. God of mercy,

**C** you bless us with gifts that sustain our lives; you transform us with the priceless gift of grace. Receive us and these signs of your blessings, and may our fasting, prayer, and works of love be an offering of thanksgiving for all that you have done for us in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*intro: one chord*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord  
 God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full  
 of your glo - ry. 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** 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.

**P** 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**C** 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.

**LAMB OF GOD**

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is an introduction of eight measures. The second staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -'. The third staff continues the lyrics: 'way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.'. The fourth staff contains: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The fifth and final staff contains: 'world; grant us peace, grant us peace.' There are rests under the words 'us' and 'peace' in the final line.

*Sit*  
**THE DISTRIBUTION** *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" LSB 699

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.

Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on My breast."  
 The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live."  
 Look un - to Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, So wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream;  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;

I found in Him a rest - ing place, And He has made me glad.  
 My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in Him.  
 And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Hoenstus Bonar, 1808-89, alt.  
 Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

SARAH-ELIZABETH  
 C M D

Text: Public domain  
 Music: © 1996 Amanda Husberg

John 6:35; Matt. 11:28-29; John 7:37; 8:12

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

### “Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace” LSB 937



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025; Tune: American; Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 11.0002511 Tune: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C** Amen.

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

# CLOSING HYMN “Amazing Grace” LSB 744

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall

now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe - thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, sts. 1–4, alt.; A *Collection of Sacred Ballads*, Richmond, 1790, st. 5;  
 Spanish tr. *¡Cantad al Señor!*, 1991

NEW BRITAIN  
 C M

Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Hertl, b. 1959

Text (English) and tune: Public domain; text (Spanish): © 1991 Editorial Concordia  
 Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

*Eph. 2:1, 4–9; John 1:14, 16–17; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 3:22b–24*

## POSTLUDE

---

## Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

---