



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 19th March
Fourth Sunday in Lent



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Almighty God,
we justly suffer for our evil deeds, but we ask you to relieve us
by the comfort of your kindness.**

**We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: JOHN 9:5

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

AT 131 Amazing grace

Amazing grace!

**How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see!**

**'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise
Then when we'd first begun.**

John Newton
Public Domain

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. **Amen.***

PSALM 23

¹ *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*
² *He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.*
*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

⁴ *Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

⁵ *You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray for faith in Jesus our Saviour.
[silence]*

**Loving Father,
when we were captive
in the darkness of sin and death,
your Son rescued us
and brought us back to you.
Teach us to trust in him
and to live as your people.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

BIBLE READING

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Samuel anoints David as king of Israel (NIVUK)

¹⁶ The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.' ² But Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.' The LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.' ⁴ Samuel did what

the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, 'Do you come in peace?' ⁵ Samuel replied, 'Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.' Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD.' ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The LORD has not chosen this one either.' ⁹ Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, 'Nor has the LORD chosen this one.' ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered. 'He is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' ¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.' ¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 Live as children of the light (NIVUK)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: 'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

LENTEN VERSE: PHILLIPIANS 2:8

Christ humbled Himself,
and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41 Jesus opens the eyes of a man born blind (NIVUK)

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

⁹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ³‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ ⁶After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷‘Go,’ he told him, ‘wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (this word means ‘Sent’). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, ‘Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?’ ⁹Some claimed that he was. Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ But he himself insisted, ‘I am the man.’ ¹⁰‘How then were your eyes opened?’ they asked. ¹¹He replied, ‘The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.’ ¹²‘Where is this man?’ they asked him. ‘I don’t know,’ he said. ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore 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.’ ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷Then 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.’ ¹⁸They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹‘Is this your son?’ they asked. ‘Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?’ ²⁰‘We know he is our son,’ the parents answered, ‘and we know he was born blind. ²¹But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.’ ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³That was why his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’ ²⁴A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. ‘Give glory to God by telling the truth,’ they said. ‘We know this man is a sinner.’ ²⁵He replied, ‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!’ ²⁶Then they

asked him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷ He answered, 'I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, 'You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from.' ³⁰ The man answered, 'Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴ To this they replied, 'You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!' And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶ 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' ³⁷ Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' ³⁸ Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, ^[a] 'For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.' ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, 'What? Are we blind too?' ⁴¹ Jesus said, 'If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.'

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

**Lord Jesus, the light for the world,
thank you for healing blindness.**

Help us to believe in you and worship you.

Amen.

KIDS SPOT

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker 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, dead, and 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 to judge the living and the dead.**

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

LHS 750: When Jesus lived among us

**When Jesus lived among us He came a child of earth
to wear our human likeness, to share our human birth;**

**and after flight and exile, an alien refugee,
return in peace and safety at last to Galilee;**

**through sunlit days of childhood a loving home to know;
in wisdom and in favour with God and us to grow.**

**He came, the friend of sinners, to meet us in our need;
the gospel of His kingdom declare in word and deed;**

**to touch and cure the leper, the lost to seek and find,
to heal in signs and wonders the deaf and dumb and blind.**

**The voice of their Creator the wind and waters heard;
to those with ears to listen He spoke the living word.**

**‘The Son of Man must suffer’, He taught by word and sign;
like bread His body broken, His blood poured out like wine.**

**His cross is for our pardon, our sacrifice for sins,
and by His resurrection our risen life begins.**

**We come in faith to Jesus to follow where He trod;
O Son of Man receive us, make us children of God.**

**Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926- (1980)
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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

Only a Holy God

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God!**

**What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendour outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him – the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy; forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God!**

**What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him – the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy; forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God!**

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God! Only my Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him – the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy; forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God!
Come and worship the Holy God!**

OFFERING PRAYER

*Thank you, Lord,
for sending us your light.
Help us to live as people of the light,
and to show your light and love to others.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus is the light of the world. Let us pray that his light may shine into the darkness of our world today.

Heavenly Father, thank you for opening the eyes of our hearts to see your will for our lives in Christ. As his light shines in our hearts to replace the darkness of our sin and weakness with his righteousness, help us to turn to you and seek your grace.
*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Lord, teach us to pray your will for our own lives and those we love and serve. Instruct us by your holy word, and direct us each day to Jesus and the prayers he prays for us.
*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for people who are blinded to Christ because of ignorance or because of sin and shame. And we pray for those areas in our lives we have kept shut to his truth and grace. Father, bring the light of the gospel to these people and places.
*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Where people are in despair for whatever reason please bring your peace. Relieve the pressure on those who suffer for your name.
*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Bless the church and all its work. Watch over Lutheran Care and its services, and those attending Christian retreats.
*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Uphold marriage and all who enter it and give all Christian parents the determination and ability to bring up their children in the faith.
*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Give courage to those who are physically blind and support those who help them. Give faith and strength to the sick and those who care for them. Provide for all in need, including those known to us personally and whom we now name in our hearts...*(brief silence)*

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We lift our eyes to you, O Lord. Restore us and the world in which we live through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May the Holy Spirit fill you with what is good.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with what is good.

WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace,
and live as children of the light.*

In the name of Christ. Amen.

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms. Praise God, just as I am.

Just as I am, I would be lost but mercy and grace my freedom bought,
and now to glory in Your cross, O Lamb of God I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms. Praise God, just as I am.

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I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms. Praise God, just as I am.
Praise God, just as I am, just as I am.

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HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

LHS

789 My Lord, you wore no royal crown G6

AT

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Second reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

LHS

168 O blessed Sun whose splendour G4

202 Help us to conquer, Thou prince everliving* G3

222 Thou whose almighty word G6

265 How blest are they who hear God's Word* G3
525 Awake, my soul, and with the sun G9

AT

126 The light of Christ
214 The Lord is my light
275 In our darkness
313 Christ, be our light
315 Drawn to the light
389 Light of the nations

Gospel: John 9:1-41

LHS

117 Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
127 Come, Holy Spirit, come* G4
131 Holy Ghost, with light divine*
222 Thou whose almighty word G6
306 I heard the voice of Jesus say G7
335 Just as I am, without one plea G9
750 When Jesus lived among us G7
792 They came, knew his name GS
796 When to our world the Saviour came
851 Amazing grace GS

AT

23 The blind man
43 How shall I call you
128 I am the light of the world
131 Amazing grace
137 I heard the voice of Jesus say
188 Reaching out
263 Blind man's eyes
344 The New Road (vv 1-4,8)
362 I believe, I do