



CHURCH @ HOMESERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 15 March 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent



A PRAYER FOR OPEN HEARTS AND EARS

**Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,
open our ears to hear your voice and our hearts to trust your promises.**

Where we are distracted, focus us;

where we are weary, strengthen us;

where we are guarded, soften us by your grace.

Let your truth take root in us and bear fruit for the life of the world.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

*Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."*

Shine in us, Lord Jesus, that we may see and believe.

Those who were blind now see, and those who see with pride are humbled.

Open our eyes, Lord Jesus, that we may worship you in truth and joy.

Come, let us praise the One who gives sight to the blind and light to our hearts.

For he is our Messiah, sent from God.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

Open the eyes of my heart Lord;

open the eyes of my heart:

I want to see You; I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord;

open the eyes of my heart:

I want to see You; I want to see You

**To see You high and lifted up
shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
as we sing holy, holy, holy**

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord;
open the eyes of my heart:
I want to see You; I want to see You**

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord;
open the eyes of my heart:
I want to see You; I want to see You**

**To see You high and lifted up
shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
as we sing holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You**

**Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You.**

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord;
open the eyes of my heart:
I want to see You; I want to see You**

**To see You high and lifted up
shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
as we sing holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You**

**Paul Baloche
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LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Come to this place with a song.

Know that your God has made you. Know it's to God we belong.

And come to this place with joyfulness and praise. Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Come to this place with a song.

Enter these gates with thanksgiving. Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God and bless His holy name. Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Come to this place with a song.

**Ages through endless ages, seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure. Worship your God with a song!**

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Come to this place with a song.

Linnea Good

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ever-living God,
you made the blind to see and the darkness to flee before the light of Christ.
Open our eyes, that we see your glory, recognize your mercy,
and follow Jesus in the way of truth. Take away the
blindness of our hearts, and fill us with faith to proclaim your wondrous works.
Amen.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
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.

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

BIBLE READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13 - Samuel anoints David as king of Israel

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.' 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." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.' 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?' 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. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord.' 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.' Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The Lord has not chosen this one either.' Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, 'Nor has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' 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.' 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.' 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.

Ephesians 5:8-14 - Live as children of the light

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 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.

John 9:1-41 - Jesus opens the eyes of a man born blind

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

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 spat 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' (this word means 'Sent'). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, 'Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?' Some claimed that he was. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' But he himself insisted, 'I am the man.' 'How then were your eyes opened?' they asked. He 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.' 'Where is this man?' they asked him. 'I don't know,' he said. 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.' They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 'Is this your son?' they asked. 'Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?' 'We know he is our son,' the parents answered, 'and we know he was born blind. But 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.' His 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. That was why his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' A 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.' He replied, 'Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!' Then they asked him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' 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?’ Then they hurled insults at him and said, ‘You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ 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.’ Then the man said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.’ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, ‘What? Are we blind too?’ 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.

LENTEN STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, who calls us out of dust and sin to life in him.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who took our humanity, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried, bearing our sin for our salvation. We believe that he rose from the dead, that we are forgiven and justified by grace alone, through faith alone, for his sake alone.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who draws us to repentance, creates faith through the Gospel, and leads us in the way of the cross. We believe in the one holy Church, the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT

**People who walk in darkness have sought
A light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost
We were draw to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night!
Drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight
To be drawn to the light of God.**

**How can we tell a heaven from hell
If everyone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
And we're drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night!
Drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight
To be drawn to the light of God.**

**Where is the sun? Oh there will be none –
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright.
Bids us to come; life has begun
When we're drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night!
Drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight
To be drawn to the light of God.**

John Ylvisaker

Song No. OL #CT-009

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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSION OF SINS

*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.*

JESUS, STRONG AND KIND

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.
Jesus, strong and kind.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving Lord,

You opened the eyes of the man born blind,
giving him sight and a new life.

We bring our offerings as sign of our trust that you can transform our lives,
our hearts, and our resources.

Bless what we offer, that it may bring light to those
walking in darkness and hope to those in need. 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 pray for God's guidance and blessings for all members and friends of our congregation. Today we pray for Melindie & Garth; Snow & Gael; Glenis; Fay; Peter & Kay. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless the families, students, and staff at all our Grace Places. Today we pray specially for GLPS Students Lucas in Prep; Bodhi, Willow & Poppy in Year 1; Annabelle, Aria & Halle in Year 2; Valentina, Sophie & Isla in Year 3; Evelyn, Rubi & Layla in Year 5; Olivia in Year 6; and staff members Gary L & Meg C. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

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 TO SHARE

May Christ, the Light of the world, open your eyes to his love.
May Christ, the Light of the world, open your eyes to his love.
May his truth guide your steps and shine in your heart.
May his truth guide your steps and shine in your heart.
May his Spirit lead you to walk in the joy of your salvation.
May his Spirit lead you to walk in the joy of your salvation. Amen.

AMAZING GRACE – MY CHAINS ARE GONE

**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.**

**My chains are gone, I've been set free,
my God, my Saviour, has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing Grace.**

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

**My chains are gone, I've been set free,
my God, my Saviour, has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing Grace.**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below,
will be forever mine.**

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

**My chains are gone, I've been set free,
my God, my Saviour, has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing Grace.**

**Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio
Song No.#4768151**

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