

# PINNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“Jesus and the Blind Man”*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023

## T AS WE GATHER T

*By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light*

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. *“For his righteousness’ sake,”* He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns *“the darkness before them into light”* (Is. 42:16) because He is *“the light of the world”* (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh *“while it is day,”* until that night *“when no one can work”* (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though *“at one time you were darkness,”* now *“you are light in the Lord”* (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to *“awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead”* (Eph. 5:14).

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:** #660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TLBWVPzznU>

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 3:4, 8*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## **T SERVICE OF THE WORD T**

**INTROIT** Psalm 142; antiphon: v. 5  
*(spoken responsively as marked)*

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>**I pour out my complaint before him;  
I tell my trouble before him.**

<sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me,  
you know my way!  
In the path where I walk  
they have hidden a trap for me.

<sup>4</sup>**Look to the right and see:  
there is none who takes notice of me;  
no refuge remains to me;  
no one cares for my soul.**

<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living."

<sup>6</sup>**Attend to my cry,  
for I am brought very low!  
Deliver me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me!**

<sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison,  
that I may give thanks to your name!  
The righteous will surround me,  
for you will deal bountifully with me.

## **KYRIE**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

### **SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 42:14–21

<sup>14</sup>For 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.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And 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.

<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,

who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup>Who 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?

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

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

**L This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** Hebrews 12:2 (*spoken together*)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**EPISTLE** Ephesians 5:8–14

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

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

**L This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** Psalm 36:9 (*spoken together*)

**With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.**

## HOLY GOSPEL 9:1-41

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

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

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He 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." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So 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." <sup>16</sup>Some 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. <sup>17</sup>So 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."

<sup>18</sup>The 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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But 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." <sup>22</sup>(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.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So 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." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He 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?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world

began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** # 571 God Loved the World so That He Gave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwhh3fBFK5w>

**SERMON:** *“Jesus and the Blind Man”*

#### **APOSTLES' 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, 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 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition:* P ... Lord, in Your mercy:  
C **hear our prayer.**

*At conclusion:* P ... one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.  
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us,  
Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey  
Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may  
live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** #623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToGi6jtVF-E>

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
C **Thanks be to God.**