

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Pre-Service Music and the Ringing of the Outside Church Bell

Opening Hymn: 426 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Text: Public domain

Please stand if able

- L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
C [spoken] **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**
- L Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
C **O come, let us worship Him.**

Venite [sung]

LSB 220

**C O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.**

**For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.**

**For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His
hand.**

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

L Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C O come, let us worship Him.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 42.

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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

L A reading from Ephesians, chapter 5.

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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand Reading

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

L A reading from John, chapter 9.

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. . . .

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.” . . .

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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (Lent)

L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

- C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Sit

Sermon Hymn: 841 “O Son of God, in Galilee”

- 1 O Son of God, in Galilee
You made the deaf to hear,
The mute to speak, the blind to see;
O blessèd Lord, be near.
- 2 O listen to the silent prayer
Of Your afflicted ones.
O bid them cast on You their care;
Your grace to them make known.
- 3 The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear
You can restore, O Lord;
Your “Ephphatha,” O Savior dear,
Can instant help afford.
- 4 Meanwhile to them the list’ning ear
Of steadfast faith impart,
And let Your Word bring light and cheer
To ev’ry troubled heart.
- 5 Then in Your promised happy land
Each loss will prove a gain;
All myst’ries we shall understand,
For You will make them plain.

Text: Anna B. D. Hoppe, 1889–1941, alt.
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Sermon “The Man Born Blind”

John 9:1-41

Canticle: 941 “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”



- 1 We praise You and ac - knowl - edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
- 2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
- 3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
- 4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right hand,

The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
 The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death-less voic - es raise.
 Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:
 Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.

To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
 The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
 You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
 We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,

The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:
 Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:
 Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
 So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;

“O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 “O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
 Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—
 May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,

Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!”
 And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!”
 You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
 In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
 Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934, alt.
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Offering Presentation and Prayer

Prayer of the Church P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

Kyrie

- C Lord, have mercy;
 Christ, have mercy;
 Lord, have mercy.

Stand

Celebration of Holy Communion

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

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Communion Liturgy

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also 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 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C **For His mercy endures forever.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Sit

Communion Distribution and Hymns:

420 “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff' rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6):
tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis
Text: Public domain

422 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,

That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.
Text: Public domain

Stand

Collects

- L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- L 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.**

Collect for Grace

- L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

- L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

- P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 551 “When to Our World the Savior Came”

- 1 When to our world the Savior came
 The sick and helpless heard His name,
 And in their weakness longed to see
 The healing Christ of Galilee.

- 2 That good physician! Night and day
 The people thronged about His way;
 And wonder ran from soul to soul,
 “The touch of Christ has made us whole!”

- 3 His praises then were heard and sung
 By opened ears and loosened tongue,
 While lightened eyes could see and know
 The healing Christ of long ago.

- 4 Of long ago: yet living still,
 Who died for us on Calv’ry’s hill;
 Who triumphed over cross and grave,
 His healing hands stretched forth to save.

- 5 His sov’ reign purpose still remains
 Who rose in pow’r, and lives and reigns;
 Till ev’ry tongue confess His praise,
 The healing Christ of all our days.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

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+in cruce spero – I hope in the cross+

Announcements

Postlude

Refreshments and Adult Bible Class

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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