



**OUR  
GREATEST  
NEEDS**

**Sight for the Blind**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 19, 2023

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

## **FOR OUR GUESTS**

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, if you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment. Activity sheets for your child are available from the ushers as well.

## **WORSHIP THEME: OUR GREATEST NEEDS**

Mankind's greatest problems are universal. We all live under the curse of sin. That sin makes us utterly helpless in our natural state. Natural man is confused, unable to make sense of life. Left in sin, man is doomed to death, and not just physical death. After one's heart stops comes another type of death that is infinitely worse, an eternal nightmare. Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs. Lent also demonstrates that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. Here is what the Spirit makes clear this season. If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need..

## **THEME OF THE DAY: SIGHT FOR THE BLIND**

We know that unbelief will have consequences in the future—eternal separation from God. But unbelief also has consequences now. It makes you blind, in a sense. The unbeliever is unable to see the world as it really is. The unbeliever cannot see the danger that lurks behind temptation. He cannot see the blessing contained in God's Word. The unbeliever cannot see the tragic fate that lies in his future, and he certainly cannot see the Savior.

The Old Testament said that restoration of sight to the blind was one of the works of the Messiah. In his ministry, Jesus healed those who were physically blind. But even if our eyes work just fine, we still need Jesus to give us spiritual vision. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Jesus meets our greatest needs. He provides sight for the spiritually blind.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### OPENING HYMN

### Amazing Grace

*STAND FOR ST. 4*



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 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



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; 'tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

### CONFESSION OF SINS

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## **ABSOLUTION**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# **THE WORD**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray:*

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness to light.*

<sup>14</sup>I have been silent for a long time.

I have kept still. I have restrained myself.

But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream.

I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will dry up mountains and hills.

I will make all their grass wither.

I will turn rivers into islands.

I will dry up pools.

<sup>16</sup>I will lead the blind on a way they do not know.

Along paths they do not know I will direct them.

Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light

and rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will accomplish for them.

I will not abandon them.

<sup>17</sup>They will be turned back and completely disgraced—

those who trust in an idol,

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

<sup>18</sup>You deaf ones, listen!

You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is as blind as my servant?

Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent?

Who is as blind as my associate,

as blind as the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup>You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe.

Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>Because of his own righteousness,

the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 5:8-14

*Those who have seen the light of Christ strive to leave deeds of darkness behind.*

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. <sup>10</sup>Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, <sup>11</sup>and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. <sup>14</sup>Therefore it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.*



HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is the World's Light



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;  
2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;  
3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;  
4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.  
no one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.  
sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.  
give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the  
Who else u - nites us, one with God the  
He who re - deemed us reigns with God the  
give God the glo - ry, God with us, our



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!  
Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!  
Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!  
broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> 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 God’s works might be revealed in connection with him. <sup>4</sup> I must do 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> After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

...

<sup>13</sup> They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” the man told them. “I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others were saying, “How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?”

There was division among them, <sup>17</sup> so they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

...

<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?” And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

<sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir,” the man replied, “that I may believe in him?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus answered, “You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” and he knelt down and worshipped him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”



## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## OFFERING

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here to donate:*



*While the offering is collected, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row.*

## OFFERING SONG

### **It Was Finished Upon That Cross**

*By CityAlight*

*How I love the voice of Jesus On the cross of Calvary  
He declares His work is finished He has spoken this hope to me  
Though the sun had ceased its shining Though the war appeared as lost  
Christ had triumphed over evil It was finished upon that cross*

*Now the curse, it has been broken Jesus paid the price for me  
Full, the pardon he has offered Great, the welcome that I receive  
Boldly, I approach my Father Clothed in Jesus' righteousness  
There is no more guilt to carry It was finished upon that cross*

*Death was once my great opponent Fear once had a hold on me  
But the Son who died to save us Rose that we would be free indeed!  
Death was once my great opponent Fear once had a hold on me  
But the Son who died to save us Rose that we would be free indeed!  
Yes, He rose that we would be free indeed!*

*Free from every plan of darkness Free to live and free to love  
Death is dead and Christ is risen! It was finished upon that cross  
Onward to eternal glory To my Saviour and my God  
I rejoice in Jesus' victory It was finished upon that cross  
It was finished upon that cross It was finished upon that cross*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*STAND*

## **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.**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

*Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We ask that only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member of Eternal Love or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are interested in learning more, please speak to one of our pastors.*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

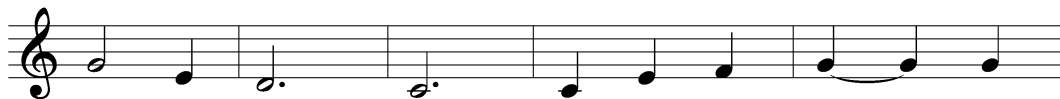
# DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of Right - eous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

### *Refrain*



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*STAND*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## HYMN

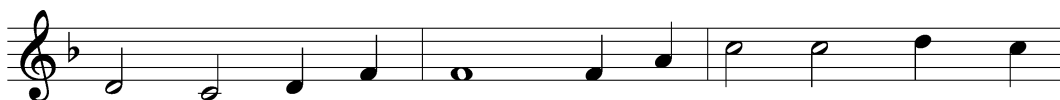
## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

*Sts. 1, 3*

1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -  
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



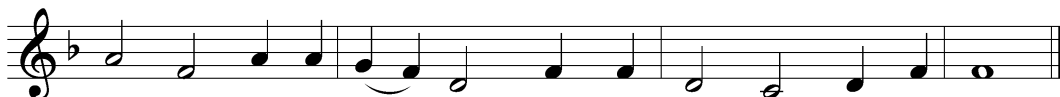
at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing  
 in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
 may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing  
 glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus

Liturgist: Pastor Dave Pries

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

Scripture Readers: Dan Wallander (8:00 am) and Chris Zimmerman (10:45 am)

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### Amazing Grace

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman. Text and tune: Public domain.

### Christ Is the World's Light

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. Tune: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950 Text: © 1969 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: © 2004 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130036228.

### It Was Finished Upon That Cross

Text and music by Jonny Robinson, Nigel Hendroff, Rich Thompson. © 2021 SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CityAlight Music (Admin. by Integrity Music). Used by permission: CCLI no. 1180837.

### I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844. Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

### Holy Bible

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