



# First Lutheran Church

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Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo ~ Associate Pastor: Lauryl Ivers ~ Music Director: Karen Bimberg



Sunday, March 19, 2023 · 8:30 AM · 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

# WELCOME

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INVOCATION

## GATHERING HYMN

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

ELW #843 vs. 1 & 3

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

**P/C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown. 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

ELW #778 vs. 1 & 5

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling-place shall be;  
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling-place shall be.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*God of Heaven—Heather Sorenson*

Jubilate Choir

## RESPONSIVE PSALM

*Psalm 23*

R: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**C: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

R: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**C: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING

*John 9:1-41*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As he walked 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?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pr. Lauryl Ivers

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

ELW #779, vs. 1-3

- 1 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.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

*Apostle's Creed*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: Lord in your mercy,      **C: Hear our prayer.**

**SHARING OF PEACE**

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

**NOISY OFFERING**      *Becker County Food Pantry*

*The Becker County Food Pantry serves as a resource for food and supplies for Becker County residents in need.*  
**February Noisy Total: \$392.70 to Global Health Ministries!**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

ELW #793, vs. 3

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P/C: Loving God, receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

**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.**

**Distribution**

**Post Communion Blessing & Prayer**

**C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

ELW #793, vs 1, 2 & 4

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**SENDING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**Welcome Visitor!** Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Street                      City                      State                      Zip Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a guest of: \_\_\_\_\_ I'm a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in learning more about First Lutheran Church.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WALK TO JERUSALEM**—Hooray! We have reached Jerusalem and are on our way back home. We are now going back through Egypt. We have several weeks yet until Easter, so don't stop the journey yet! Let's continue and see how close we can get to Detroit Lakes again. Keep up the great work, hand in your miles each week. Enter your miles/minutes each week by dropping off the log sheet next to the world map in the Narthex, emailing them to [denise@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:denise@firstlutheranchurch.com), or go to the weekly update email and hit the tab under the Walk to Jerusalem information. Maybe we can reach DL again before Easter!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**—Please save the date for the Youth Pie Auction which will be held on Sunday, March 26. Sign up to donate pies at the volunteer table!

**DO I STAY CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY**—We will discuss Brian McLaren's new book, *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned* (2022). The five-week book discussion will take place in the Church Library at 11:00 AM on Wednesday mornings during Lent: March 8—April 5. For more information, contact Gary Goreham at 701-200-6583. Books can be ordered by contacting Gary for \$24. All orders for a book need to be into Gary by February 20th.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES**—We will be offering 12:05 PM and 6 PM Services on Lenten Wednesdays. These services began Ash Wednesday and will continue each Wednesday through March 29. A free will offering meal will be offered following the noon service and the usual Wednesday night Oasis meal will be served before the 6 PM worship service beginning at 5 PM.

**UPC LABEL COLLECTION**—Please save UPC box labels from Our Family Brand groceries for Rebekah Circle. For every 500 we get \$25. Funds raised will go toward the Becker County Food Pantry and the FLC Agape Fund. There is a basket in the dining room closet you can place them in.

**PERSONAL CARE KITS**—The WFLC will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits this Spring! Items needed are as follows: Light weight bath towels, Bath size bar soap (8 to 9 oz), Adult size tooth brushes, Sturdy combs (no picks), & Metal nail clippers. There will be a collection tote by the office to donate any of these items. Thank you for your help in our effort to help aid the unfortunate. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to help.



### Easter Week Services

*April 6th—April 9th*

**Maundy Thursday**—12:05 & 6:00 PM

**Good Friday**—12:05 & 6:00 PM

**Easter Sunday**—8:30, 9:30 & 10:45 AM

*All services will be offered in-person & online. Those who prefer to join us online via*

### Join us for Worship!

**RADIO:** Broadcast on KDLM 1340-AM & 93.1-FM at 10 AM.

**WEBCAST:** Services are streamed on the FLC YouTube channel.

**TELEVISION:** Saturdays at 9 AM on Arvig Cable channel 14.



### Ways to Give

**ONLINE:** [firstlutheranchurch.com](http://firstlutheranchurch.com)—One-time, weekly, monthly or quarterly. Checking, savings or credit card. (*fees associated with credit card usage*)

**TEXT:** 218-228-3228—Text your donation amount to the number listed above & follow instructions that are texted to you. (We suggest you add the phone number above as a contact in your phone for future use.)

**CHECK/CASH:** 912 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

### Prayers for God's People

Brent Blake  
Rodger Tinjum  
Chuck Berg  
Joe Morrison  
Elaine Hedman  
Dale Pepelnjak  
Connie Goff  
Julie Manke  
Dave Johnson  
Sarah Seuntjens  
Bill Wegscheid  
Jim Andersen  
Lisa Weber  
Phyllis Green  
Liz Mathison  
Judy Ford  
Dorothy Haverkamp  
Dave Nustad  
Arthur Strauss  
Marjorie Berg  
Jenny Horsely  
Pr. Brad Skogen  
Barbara Stambach  
Michael  
Andrew

### Prayers of Comfort to the family of

Ted Sims  
Dorothy Everson  
Ray Swanson  
Jean Rolle  
*Names are kept on the  
prayer list for 3 weeks;  
please update the office,  
if you wish to remain  
on the list longer.*

### CREATION CARE NOTE

13 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are from the production and transportation of food. You can help combat this number by buying locally, growing your own food, or buying your food in bulk.