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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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).

Order of Matins

- 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** **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.

Psalmody

- L** Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
C O come, let us worship Him.

Venite

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** Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
C O come, let us worship Him.

Additional Psalms

Psalm 142; antiphon: v. 5

- ⁵I cry to you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
¹With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.
²**I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.**

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

⁴**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.**

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

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

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

**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.**

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

Readings

The First Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

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.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

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.”

The Third Reading

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

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."

Responsory (Lent)

LSB 222

- 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.

Homily

Canticle

C Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;
for He has visited and redeemed His people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of His servant David,

as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
who have been since the world began:
that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

to perform the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember His holy covenant,
the oath that He swore to our father Abraham,
to grant us that we,

being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve Him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before Him
all the days of our life.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways;
to give knowledge of salvation to His people
in the forgiveness of their sins,

through the tender mercy of our God;
when the day shall dawn upon us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

Prayer

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy;

**Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

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.

Collects

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

Collect of the Day

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

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

LSB 228

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 228

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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