

NOTES: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT –A

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

The man born blind washes in the pool of Siloam, which in English would be Sent. In one way or another everyone is blind. It is often easier to see the sins of others than to see our own. Like the man born blind we are also told to wash in the pool named Sent. We are God's sent people, going towards pain and suffering, bringing compassion, relief, and mercy.

In our gospel story today, a man blind from birth sees for the first time. He once "saw" only through his hands, fingertips, ears, and nose by touch, sound, and smell. Sometimes we close our eyes during a prayer, sermon, song, or hymn that speaks to us. When we open our eyes, we see everything around us differently: brightness, colors, shapes, sizes, and truths.

At least since the fourth century, the church has used the narrative of the man born blind as a picture of every believer's baptism, which in early centuries was commonly called "enlightenment." Our baptism has given us the light of Christ, by which we live, and with which we illumine the darkness in and outside ourselves. Along with the seeing man, we affirm our Lenten faith, "Lord, I believe." We too are sent by baptism to live a new life.

When healing the man born blind, Jesus used mud—the soil of the earth and his own saliva—to first cover the man's eyes. We might see this episode as a reminder that God uses the stuff of this earth, its very dirt, as a complement to the divine workings of salvation.

One thing I see in your light: this will, which you have given us as free, seems to receive its strength from the light of faith, for by this light we come in your light to know your eternal will, and we see that your will wants nothing else but that we be made holy. You, light, are also the fuel for the fire, since it is you that makes the fire grow in the soul.

[Catherine of Siena, *The Prayers of Catherine of Siena*, ed. Suzanne Noffke, OP (NY: Paulist, 1983), 121.]

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

10:00AM

Livestream Worship

Available on <https://www.facebook.com/epiphany.church?epa>



Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Welcome among God's people!

If you are a guest or returning home, we welcome you to our church family at Epiphany. Each Sunday we worship in the spirit of God's encompassing love and forgiveness, available to all people. We seek and intend to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. *All persons are welcomed into our fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, disability, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

We will likely be LIVESTREAMING each of the worship services scheduled for Holy Week and Easter due to the limitation of not being able to gather in groups of ten or more people. We are exploring the best alternatives at this time and will announce the details of how we are planning to hold these central worship services of the Church Year.

- PALM SUNDAY SERVICES - April 5, 10am
Blessing of Palms and Congregational Reading of the Passion according to the Gospel of Matthew.
- MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - April 9, 7:00pm
Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar.
- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - April 10, 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE - April 12, 7:00am
- EASTER CELEBRATION WORSHIP, 10AM We celebrate our Lord's Resurrection with holy communion and special music.

MINISTRY CALENDAR

- Sunday, March 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent
DOROTHY DAY SOUP KITCHEN—Canceled
10:00 AM Livestream Worship Service
6:00 PM Livestream Beer and Hymns

Church Office Hours (Tues.-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm)
No church event gatherings will be held due COVID-19 outbreak.

- Wednesday, March 25
7:00 PM Livestream Message and Music

- Sunday, March 29
10:00 AM Livestream Worship Service

STAFF

- Interim Pastor Rev. Ken Gillikin pastor@epiphany-rockhill.org
- Office Administrator Lisa Percivaladmin@epiphany-rockhill.org
- Child Care Lori Oxendine boxendi1@email.cpsc.edu
- Interim Director of Music LaVerne Vinegar



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We respond to petitions: Hear us, O God... **your mercy is great.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound** **ELW 779**

DISMISSAL

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

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Join Us LIVESTREAM on Wednesday Nights Throughout Lent (March 25 and April 1)— A Message and Music Service will be livestreamed with Pastor Ken and LaVerne Vinegar. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/epiphany.church?epa>

Lenten Emphasis on ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving - Members are encouraged to use the Lenten Daily Prayer Focus Calendar and collect monies for ELCA World Hunger in coin jar/cans.

BEER AND HYMNS LIVESTREAMED TONIGHT AT 6PM— We will go LIVESTREAM in hosting the Second Annual Celtic Beer and Hymns. Guest musician, Accordion Man, Bob Wilusc, will be back to serenade us as we sing Celtic hymns and folks songs.

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020
Livestream Worship at 10:00AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Walk in the Light” (Manoah) arr. Shanko

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the one God, who is present, who gives life, who creates and calls all things into existence.
Amen.

Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord. Hear our voice. Let your ears be attentive. If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared. We wait for you, O Lord; in your word is our hope.

Silence is kept for reflection.

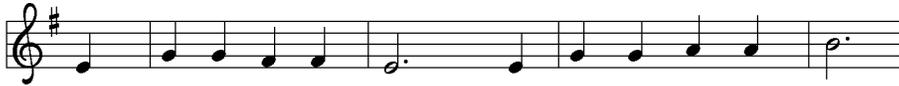
Gracious God, **have mercy on us.**
We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly.
We have wandered from your resurrection life.
We have strayed from your love for all people.
Turn us back to you, O God.
Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace. **Amen.**

HYMN **God, Whose Almighty Word** **ELW 673**

GREETING AND KYRIE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ... **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. Amen.**

APPOINTED LESSONS FOR THE DAY—*You may follow the Readings from your personal Bible or on your Bible digital app.*

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The holy gospel according to John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 9:1-41 is read.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MORNING MESSAGE

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

PROFESSION OF FAITH— APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

We sing: I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river.

I've got peace like a river in my soul (2x)

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of