Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023





The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, as we continue our Lenten journey to the cross, use Your holy Law to make us conscious of our sin so that we bow in repentance before You. We know well what everlasting punishment our rebellion against Your will has earned. Yet You, O Jesus, are the friend of sinners. You came into the world that the Father might lay upon You the iniquity of us all. Because of Your faithful and steadfast love we find mercy and healing for our sin-sick souls. Hear us, holy Jesus. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood

to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Exhortation 1 John 1:8–9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, 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.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the → Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 27:4-6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15



My eyes are ever toward the LORD,* for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty
of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high up- on a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

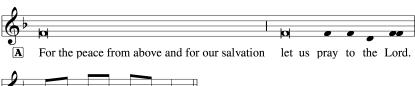
I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

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

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,* for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Kyrie Mark 10:47









For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



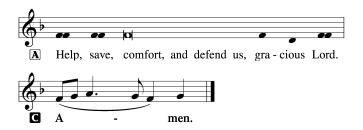




For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



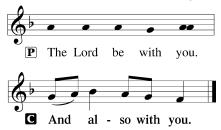




This Is the Feast

During Lent the Hymn of Praise is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

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.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21

For 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. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And 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.

They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images,

"You are our gods."

Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who 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? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hebrews 12:2



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,* the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- ing the shame,* and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

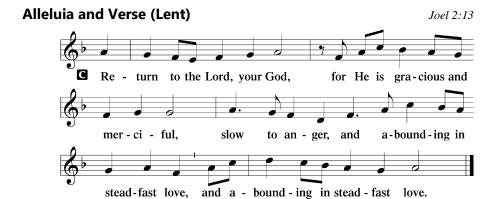
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be

displayed 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." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So 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. So 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." Some 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. So 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."

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 how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to 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 said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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?" And 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, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

Sermon

"Blind to the Truth"

Text: John 9:1-41



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life

→ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

(Please add your name to the red fellowship book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)

Stand







Service of the Sacrament

+++

Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.

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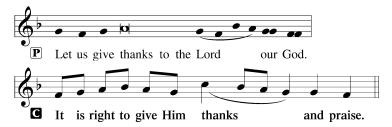
Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]





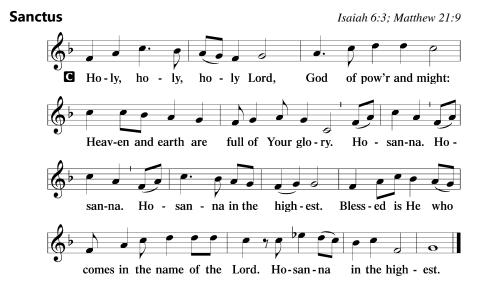
C We lift them to the Lord.



Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all

the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

C

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

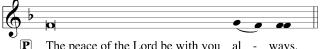
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took \mathbf{P} bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ∓ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Pax Domini

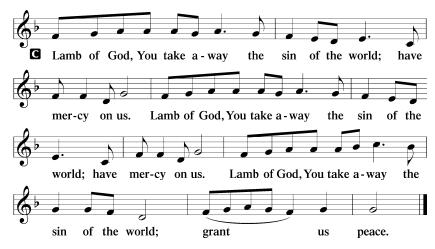
John 20:19



The peace of the Lord be with you al -



Agnus Dei John 1:29



Sit

Personal prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



Distribution

Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



Stand



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BenedictionNumbers 6:24–26



The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you

and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ⅓ give you peace.



849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Steve White 10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson

Portals of Prayer for April-June 2023 are out!

Pick up your copy from the table in the narthex. We have digest size copies if you need larger print. These are a great resource to use in your daily devotions!

March Mission Project!

LWML Women of the Cross is collecting



Peanut Butter and Jelly (or Sunflower Butter or any nut or seed butter)

For the Douglas County Food Bank

There will be a collection bin in the narthex Sunday, March 5 – Sunday, March 26.

Thank you!



If you wish to beautify the Lord's sanctuary Easter morning by donating an Easter lily, please sign up at the table in the narthex by **April 2**. If you wish to purchase one in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one, please note that next to your name.

Please pay for your plants by placing a check for \$10 in the offering plate, **made payable to Holy Cross**. Note in the memo section that the check is for an Easter lily. Or place cash in the offering plate noted for Easter lily.

Plants can be taken home after the second service Easter morning.



Please check the **Sunday Greeter schedule**, posted on the bulletin board, to find out when you're scheduled to serve. Thank you!

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."



REVERENDEUN COM COPYRIGHT GCI, INC.



IT WAS ONLY AFTER NOAH FINISHED HIS ARK PROTOTYPE THAT HE FINALLY ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT A CUBIT WAS



"If God wanted me to eat carrots, He wouldn't hide them underground!"









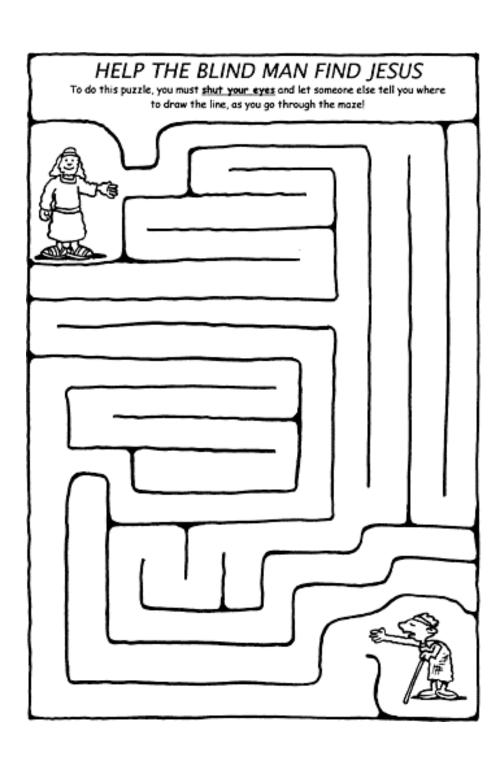
John 9

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he is of age clay pharisees opened light of the world man of God washed give god the praise sabbath day eye blind

He is a prophet

spittle jews sight siloam Lord I believe A man called Jesus



Petitions and Prayers: When we pray, Jesus appears "in the presence of God for us."



Health concerns:

Dear Jesus, You are the Great Physician. You took our flesh upon Yourself: You know our weaknesses because You bore them on the cross. We pray that You would deliver those with illnesses and afflictions. Likewise, enable them to believe that Your grace is sufficient for them in all circumstances. Thank You that we can look to You for hope and healing. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Devon Hanson (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell) mental health issues
- Roger Frank (brother of Connie Mitchell) cancer
- Mary (relative of Tabris') pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris –waiting for heart transplant
- Jamie (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter Jade (is being adopted by family in Colorado)

Prayer of intercession:

*Heavenly Father, in our selfish pride we do not always want to acknowledge and confess our sins. We believe that somehow we can be good enough to satisfy You, and we feel more than satisfied with our own efforts. During this Lenten season enable us to follow our Savior along the road that led to His suffering and death. Help us to trust that He walked that road for us, that in His own body He carried our sins to the cross, and that He suffered the punishment we rightly deserve for our self-satisfaction and our sins. Let us look not to our own efforts but to the mercy and forgiving love found only in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life March 19, 2023

"When we ignore the baby in the womb and focus instead on what is now being labeled as the rights of the mother and women's health care, we are turning our backs on God. Never has God authorized killing and called it a right. Never has God condoned promoting abortion and called it health care. His love for life is written throughout Scripture. What are we doing when we ignore His sacred Word?"

Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Church Office	303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, cell	303-908-3339
Website	www.hclchr.org

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio or
or and click on "Listen Now"
anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church





Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook. Check us out and Like us at facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.



Remember what's at the center of SIN, "I" am.