

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH welcomes you as you join with us in worship this day. May the Holy Spirit bless you with the message you hear from God's Word, the prayers, the hymns, and the fellowship we share with you. Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services. If you need to step out for a moment with your child, a Family Room is located right outside the Sanctuary doors.
- Changing Tables are located in the Restrooms.
- Please fill out an attendance sheet in the pad on the chairs and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Guests: We promise we will not bombard you with emails or calls, but this information is helpful for staying in touch.
- Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Lenten Midweek Service 3: The Blind Man

March 15, 2023

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 146:5-10

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

C Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

P Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,

C Who gives food to the hungry.

P The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

P The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

C The Lord watches over the sojourners;

P He upholds the widow and the fatherless,

C But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

P The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C Praise the Lord!

Hymn: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LSB 423

Jesus, refuge of the weary,
blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above;
Often have your eyes, offended,
gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
you have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding,
breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding,
see your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us
life eternal, peace and rest;

**Only what your grace has taught us
calms the sinner's deep distress.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning
with more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning
to behold your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Jesus showed grace to the blind man and restored his sight. Trusting in God's compassion and saving love, we confess our sins and ask his forgiveness for Jesus' sake.
- C** **Almighty God, although we claim to see and know so much, all too often we are lost in the blindness of our sins. We follow tempting pathways instead of walking in your commandments. We act according to our own desires instead of obeying the guidance of your holy Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Open our eyes so that, by faith, we will see the wonders of your love and grace.**
- P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. The Lord and Messiah, who opened the eyes of the blind, came to lay down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- C** **The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind!**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, we pray that by your Spirit you would grant us the clear sight of faith to see the wonders of your love and power in our lives. Through Jesus' redeeming death, we have forgiveness and eternal life. As the blind man told others about the miracle that had been accomplished in his life, help us to witness boldly to your amazing grace and tell others of the hope and peace that can be theirs through faith in Jesus. As the man who was healed worshiped Jesus, we too worship Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in his holy name. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:4-10

- L** Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He

will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-9

L So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-7, 24-38

P As he 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 spit 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 ... So for the second time [the Pharisees] 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.

Hymn: "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"

LSB 846

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death,
o'er darkness and the grave.
To you they came, the blind, the mute,
the palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery,
the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
revealed you, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain,
as by Gennes' ret's shore.

Sermon: "Grace for the Blind"

John 9:1-7, 24-38

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P Almighty God, during his earthly ministry, your Son, our Lord Jesus, healed the sick and restored sight to the blind. He fulfilled all that the Scriptures had foretold of the Messiah. His healing miracles proved him to be the Son of God and the promised Messiah. We give you thanks and praise for your saving work through Jesus our Savior. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, give us eyes of faith to see the miracles that you have done and continue to do in our lives, especially the miracle of our salvation in Jesus. Help us to see clearly your truth and to grow in grace as we see Jesus revealed in your holy Word. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we pray for those who are suffering through illness, fear and grief. According to your will, bring them comfort and healing. Lead us to serve them as we offer help to them in their need. Help them to see clearly the hope and encouragement found in the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, the man whose sight was restored worshiped Jesus as Messiah and Lord. Give us the clear sight of faith so that we too will faithfully worship Jesus as our Savior and King. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer. Amen.

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.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 5:6-7; 2 Corinthians 13:14

P So we are always of good courage.

C We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

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

C Amen.

Hymn: “Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”

LSB 846

O be our great deliv’rer still,
the Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
with your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
give wisdom’s healing pow’r
That whole and sick and weak and strong
may praise you evermore.