

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † One God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

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 for your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and rights 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 sins is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift God's grace for you.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

#673

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| <p>1. God, whose almighty word
chaos and dark-ness heard
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.</p> | <p>3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.</p> |
| <p>2. Christ, who once came to bring,
on your re-deeming wing,
Healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.</p> | <p>4. Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might:
bound-less as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.</p> |

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

"Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved"

#602

O God, Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.

**Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know,
by ev'ry evil, ev'ry woe;
upon your cross forsaken Son
our death is laid, and peace is won.**

O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.

**Your arms extend, O Christ, to save
from sting of death and grasp of grave;
your scars before the Father
move his heart to mercy at such love.**

O God, Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us.

**O lavish Giver, come to aid
the children that your world has made.
Now make us grow and help us pray;
bring joy and comfort, come to stay.**

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 live and reign with the Father and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****FIRST READING**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

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

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**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.**

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

**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.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out 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 mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Special music provided by the Battiste Family

HOLY GOSPEL**John 9:1-41**The Holy Gospel according to John in the 9th chapter.**Glory to you O Lord.**

As [Jesus] 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 the man." 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." But 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, and 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 near 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.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Ann Marshall

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

#768

REFRAIN: *Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I can-not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **REFRAIN**
2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, Lead me. **REFRAIN**
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, Lead me. **REFRAIN**

APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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 INTERCESSION**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Petitions conclude: Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

MEAL

***OFFERING**

***OFFERING SONG** *"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* # 678

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| <p>1. God whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.</p> | <p>2. Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace
conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
O-pen wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.</p> |
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*spoken*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to prepare with joy for the pascal feat, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS #190

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God of mercy.....your mercy and refreshment for our souls.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send us now, we pray.....and a new day of righteousness.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

With all the saints in glory.....now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

"Lamb of God"

#196

**O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world; have mercy upon us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world; Grant us your peace. A---men.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN*"Amazing Grace"*

#779

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| <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>4. The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.</p> <p>5. When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing
God's praise than when we'd first begun.</p> |
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TABLE BLESSING*At the conclusion: Amen***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***At the conclusion: Amen***SENDING****BENEDICTION***At the conclusion: Amen***SENDING SONG***"You Are Mine"*

#581

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| <p>1. I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here. REFRAIN</p> <p>2. I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me. REFRAIN</p> | <p>3. I am strength for all the despairing,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
All the blind will see,
the lame will run free,
and all will know my name. REFRAIN</p> <p>4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
stand up, now walk and live! REFRAIN</p> |
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REFRAIN:*Do not be afraid, I am with you.**I have called you each by name.**Come and follow me, I will bring you home;**I love you and you are mine.***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE**