

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

March 12, 2023

PRELUDE

Benjamin Culli

ITALIAN HYMN

Please stand.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We are gathered in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

L: 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,**

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

C: **Who gives food to the hungry.**

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C: **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

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

C: **The Lord watches over the sojourners;**

L: He upholds the widow and the fatherless,

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

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

C: **Praise the Lord!**

THE 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.

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GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD

ELW 673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

GREETING AND THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

Please be seated.

READING FROM ISAIAH

35:4-10

R: A reading from Isaiah the 35th chapter.

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.

R: The Word of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

A READING FROM II CORINTHIANS 5:6-9

R: A reading from II Corinthians the 5th chapter.

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.

R: The Word of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-7,24-38

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9th chapter.

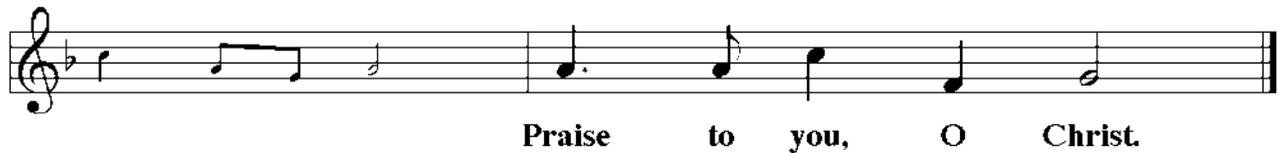
C: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

C:



Please be seated

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Rev. C.J. Bailey

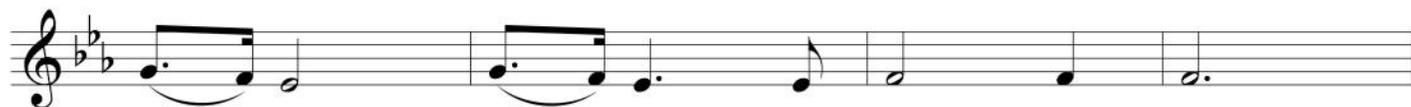
AMAZING *grace*

Voice of the Blind Man— Victor Welsch

Please stand.

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

ELW 768



Lead me, guide me, a - long 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
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
 I am blind with - out thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
 I am put - ting all my trust in thee.
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith as expressed through the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING & MEDITATION

Marilyn Biery

SHANTI

We Walk by Faith

AMAZING GRACE

ELW 779

Verses 1,3

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

You are invited to kneel as you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Together we respond:

P: Gracious Lord,

C: **Have mercy on us and receive our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

THE BENEDICTION

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: May God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth, bless you in this Lenten journey.

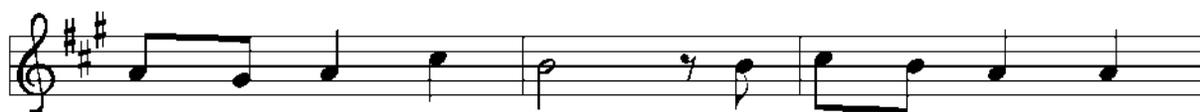
C:



WE WALK BY FAITH ELW 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace! Serve in love!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Gordon Young

ITALIAN HYMN

Today's Worship Leaders

<i>Cantor:</i>	<i>Victor Welsch</i>	<i>Facebook Camera:</i>	<i>Wendy Bailey</i>
<i>Host:</i>	<i>Janet Zirger</i>	<i>SlideShow Creator:</i>	<i>Pastor Bailey</i>
<i>Lector:</i>	<i>Rev. Phil Scherr</i>	<i>SlideShow Operator:</i>	<i>Andrew Bailey</i>
<i>Voice of Blind Man:</i>	<i>Victor Welsch</i>	<i>Worship Assistant:</i>	<i>Philip Scherr</i>
<i>Director of Music:</i>	<i>Curtis L. King</i>	<i>Today's Officiant:</i>	<i>Rev. C. J. Bailey</i>

We could not offer multiple platforms for sharing worship
"Apart...yet Together"
without an entire crew of people working to make the magic happen.
THANK YOU!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Director of Music:
CURTIS L. KING

"God is among us!"
"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive,
reconcile and trust God for all that we need."

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