

MARCH 15, 2023 - LENT 3 MIDWEEK SERVICE

Prelude - “Behold The Great Redeemer” by Careless; setting by Schreiner.

Stand

423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent

whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -

from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er

Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our

cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Versicles

- 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!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.
C **Almighty God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may have the clear sight of faith to see the wonders of your love in our lives, especially the forgiveness and eternal life we have through Jesus' redeeming death. 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 Christ Jesus. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in his holy name. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:4–10

⁴Say 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."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then 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;
⁷the 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.
⁸And 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.
⁹No 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.
¹⁰And 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.

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

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:1–9

¹For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

LSB 157



C 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.

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–7, 13–16, 24–38

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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.” ¹⁶Some 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.

²⁴So 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.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He 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?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

846 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
 2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
 3 O be our great de - liv - 'er still,

Was strong to heal and save; It tri - umphed o - ver
 Gave speech and strength and sight; And youth re - newed and
 The Lord of life and death; Re - store and quick - en,

ills and death, O'er dark - ness and the grave.
 fren - zy calmed Re - vealed You, Lord of light.
 soothe and bless, With Your life - giv - ing breath.

To You they came, the blind, the mute,
 And now, O Lord, be near, to bless,
 To hands that work and eyes that see

The pal - sied and the lame, The lep - ers in their
 Al - might - y as be - fore, In crowd - ed street, by
 Give wis - dom's heal - ing pow'r That whole and sick and

mis - er - y, The sick with fe - vered frame.
 beds of pain, As by Gen - es - 'ret's shore.
 weak and strong May praise You ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Anthem - "How Great Thou Art" by Stuart Hine; Bruce Emerick, soloist.

Kneel

Prayers

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.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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

- 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

LSB 166

- P** 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 ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Stand

744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1–4

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.

Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude - “O Sacred Head, Once Wounded” Chorale by J. S. Bach.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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