



Welcome

We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn

Today Your Mercy Calls Us | **915**

Confession & Absolution

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

Amen. [Matt 28:19b; 18-20]

Our help is in the name of the Lord **who made heaven and earth.**

[Psalm 124:8]

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** [Psalm 130:3-4]

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

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

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

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. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

Psalm

[Psalm 142:1-7]

With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

**I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.**

When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

**Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.**

I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."

**Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!
Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!**

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

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name!
The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

Kyrie

[Southwell LSB 424]

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026 (Setting 4)

The Light Which Makes the Light, Which Makes the Day

Sir John Davies, an English poet and also a member of Parliament, wrote a book of poetry in 1599 called Nosce

Teipsum, meaning "Know Thyself." Listen to how this section of it explores the difficulty we face in truly knowing ourselves, as by nature we are in spiritual blindness—but then also how it declares by whom we are able to see.

That Power which gave me eyes the World to view,
To see my self infused an inward light;
Whereby my soul, as by a mirror true,
Of her own form may take a perfect sight,
Except the sun-beams in the air do shine;
So the best soul with her reflecting thought,
Sees not her self without some light divine.

O Light which mak'st the light, which makes the day!
Which sets the eye without, and mind within;
Lighten my spirit with one clear heavenly ray,
Which now to view itself doth first begin . . .
To judge her self she must her self transcend,
As greater circles comprehend the less;

But she wants power, her own powers to extend,
As fettered men can not their strength express.
But Thou bright Morning Star, Thou rising Sun,
Which in these later times hast brought to light
Those mysteries, that since the world begun,
Lay hid in darkness, and eternal night:
Thou (like the sun) dost with indifferent ray,
Into the palace and the cottage shine,
And shew'st the soul both to the clerk and lay,
By the clear lamp of Thy Oracle divine.

Ultimately, it is the light of Christ that enlightens our vision and reveals who we truly are. As Jesus healed the blind man and gave him eyes to see—not only to see the physical world around him but also to see Jesus as the Christ (*John 9*)—so Jesus heals our sinful blindness and gives us eyes to see the truth.

~Rev. Anthony C. Dodgers, Ossian, Indiana

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** [1Timothy 4:22]

Let us pray... *[silence for individual prayer]* 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 many heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah.

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. [Isaiah 42:14-21]

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

The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians.

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 ex-
posed 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."* [Ephesians 5:8-14]

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

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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 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.

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 an-
swered, "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. [John 9:1-41]

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Talk

Please sit. The children are invited forward for a message based on today’s Scripture readings led by Pastor Fitch.

Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light | 411

Sermon

Our Confession of Faith

Please stand to confess the Apostles’ Creed printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the Life at Faith insert. Please be seated.

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay

Please stand.



Hymn On My Heart Imprint Your Image

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation. [LSB 422]*

Sacrament of the Altar

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

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 Him thanks and praise.

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:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

The Lord’s Prayer

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He taught us:

**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. [Matt 6:9-13]**

