

# Divine Service, Setting Three

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

15 March 2026

*PRE-SERVICE MUSIC*

*RINGING OF THE BELLS*

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

**OPENING HYMN: ♪“CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES”**

**LSB 873**

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise;  
Triumph o’er the shades of night.  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**
  
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day’s return  
Till Thy mercy’s beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**
  
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **INTROIT**

**PSALM 27:4-6**

My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

## **GLORIA PATRI**

**C** **G** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **KYRIE**

**C** **G** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **G** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

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 may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **G** Amen.

*Sit*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**ISAIAH 42:14-21**

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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **EPISTLE**

**EPHESIANS 5:8-14**

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 exposed 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 you."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## *Stand*

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**JOHN 9:1-41**

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

**GJ** **Glory be to Thee, 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 spat 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 answered, "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."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **NICENE CREED**

**C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

### **CATECHETICAL VERSE TO KNOW BY HEART**

#### **The Fifth Petition**

**C** **And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

What does this mean?

- © We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.**

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN: ♪“HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANOINTED”**

**LSB 398**

- 1 Hail to the Lord’s anointed,  
Great David’s greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression  
And rule in equity.**
  
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy  
To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in His sight.**
  
- 3 He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains  
From hill to valley flow.**
  
- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all people sing.  
To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.**

5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,  
He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever—  
That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Text: Public domain

**SERMON: "A LIFE CHANGED!"**

**JOHN 9:1-41**

By Pastor John Schmidt

*Stand*

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
**C** Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

*Sit*

**OFFERING**

*As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.*

**OFFERING HYMN: ♪ "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN"**

**LSB 781 V. 1-2**

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**PREFACE**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.  
**P** It is truly meet, 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 saying:

### **SANCTUS**

**☩** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **PAX DOMINI**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**☩** Amen.

### **AGNUS DEI**

**☩** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

*Sit*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪ "HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING"**

**LSB 345**

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!**  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,**  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,**  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

**4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.**

**△5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!**

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.Text: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪“I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”**

**LSB 411**

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain**

*Refrain:*

**In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain**

**3 I’m looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025 Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005097

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪“AMAZING GRACE”**

**LSB 744**

**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!**

**2 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

**3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.**

**4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.**

**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.**

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### **NUNC DIMITTIS**

**☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING**

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**☩ and His mercy endureth forever.**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

### **SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**☩ And with thy spirit.**

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**☩ Thanks be to God.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**☩ Amen, amen, amen.**

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the\_unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.**
  
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You  
Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.**
  
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given  
To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence,  
“You have done it all to Me.”  
Can it be, O gracious Master,  
That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy,  
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?**
  
- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly,  
Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
But, oh, best of all Your graces,  
With Your love our love renew.**

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.Text: Public domain

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Announcements**

### **Acknowledgments**

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