



## WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Longing for Community

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*Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion*

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### Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning  
the way you feel comfortable.

**All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!**

**Everybody Is Somebody Here**

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#### WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a **"Pray Ground"** for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs "a break" or "louder play", there is an **"Active Worship"** room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

#### GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

#### SILENCE FOR GATHERING

#### OPENING HYMN

**"I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light"**

**ELW #815**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
So Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**We confess to you, most loving God,  
the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

**We have knowingly believed dishonest words.**

**We have questioned your gracious power again and again.**

**We have given into temptation.**

**We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet  
holding ourselves apart.**

**In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors  
and ourselves. Gather us back to you.**

**Forgive us, free us, and make us whole**

**for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### SONG OF CONFESSION

**"Return to God"**

**Marty Haugen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the overlooked,  
**we long for you to notice us and find us, speak with us and heal us. When we are bound by fear or blame, grant us the wholeness to believe and accept one another.**  
**Lead us from assigning sin and fault, to asking where we each have seen God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## CHILDREN SINGING

## GOSPEL READING:

**John 9:1-40**

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 he." 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." 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."

## THE WORD

God speaks to us through  
scripture reading, preaching,  
and song.



All young and young at heart  
are invited forward during the  
Children's time.

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, 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 who were with 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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord      C: *Thanks be to God*

## SERMON

**Pastor Brent Erler**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"**

**ELW #779**

## 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.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

To support the ministry of  
FOC please use the QR  
Code below or donate to the  
offering plate.



**OFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: Lord in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**BLESSING**

**PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE**

**Lord God, you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"**

**ELW #774**

**SENDING**

**POSTLUDE**

**THE MEAL**

God feeds us with the forgiveness and presence of Christ.

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing and Goldfish Crackers



**THE SENDING**

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



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**Serving Today**

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musician

Mary Wescott

Sound and Video

Nathan Blilie

\*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

**FamilyofChrist**  
**FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION**

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Hearing Assistance devices are available at the soundboard  
Radio frequency for hearing assistance on 73.9 MHz on the FM band