

### Worship Notes for Visitors & Members

**Welcome to worship** - Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors, we are glad you are here today, and hope that you will worship with us again soon and often. Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. These will aid our record-keeping. Thank you. Large print bulletins are available from an usher in the narthex. *"It is good to worship the Lord together, and to come into his presence with thanksgiving."* Psalm 95

**Welcome children** - Jesus said "Let the children come to me." Children are welcome and encouraged to worship here at St. Paul. We rejoice that they are among us; however, if you need it, our nursery is available at all services and you can hear the service on audio. An usher will guide you.

**St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table.** Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

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### PARTICIPANTS

<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Esther Kindt
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce
	9:00 am.	Paul Kieliszewski, Cathy Kieliszewski
		Kathy Burton, Barb Szczesniak
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Evan Peterson
	9:00 a.m.	Emily Smith
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry and Laurie Stafford

*We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.*

## St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



**March 18, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**March 19, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.**

# GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 18, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.  
March 19, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

*Congregational responses are printed in bold; Additional items for the 9:00 a.m. service only are printed in blue.)*

**Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, Anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. The offering will be received at the back and front of the church building. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church before you depart the church.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*(Please Stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**                      “Lead Me, Guide Me”                      (Red) #768

## GREETING

Pastor: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer another screening at our church on Friday, March 24th.** You can register for an appointment now by calling 1-800-640-6307 or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HC).

**The Soul Sisters are getting together on March 28th at 5:30 in the multipurpose room for Taco Tuesday!** We will be having tacos and then signing Easter cards for Medilodge patients and St. Paul home bounds members. If anyone would like to bring something for the tacos and a dessert, please contact Val Urban, 989-356-4613 or Shirley Jones, 989-464-6472. Come join us for fun and fellowship!

**Our March Service Activity is Pied Piper School.** The items needed are: Sweatpants – sizes boys medium -XL; Underwear - boys med – X-large; Socks – sizes youth and adult; Gloves and hats – size adult; T-shirts – sizes long large and regular large; backpacks, and fidget (sensory item) toys. Please leave your donation items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

**Join us for the Holy Week Services.** They are as follows: Palm Sunday we will have our three regular weekend services; Maundy Thursday Service & Luncheon (St. Paul) - 12:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Maundy Thursday at Trinity Episcopal Church, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00, preceded by a Soup Supper at 5:00; Good Friday Services, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Tre-Ore Service (at Grace Lutheran Church) from 12:00-3:00, evening service at 6:00 (at St. Paul), followed by the movie “The Passion” at 7:00 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have three services: A Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., Liturgical Service at 9:00 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 10:30 a.m.

**On Saturday, April 8th, the Adventure Club is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for our community within our building.** We would love donations of time and candy. This will be another event to celebrate Christ in our community. Come and join the adventure.

**The Crafters will be hosting a Bake Sale on Easter Sunday, before and after the 6:30 and 9:00 a.m. Easter Services in the Narthex.** Come check out the cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, carrot cake, homemade bread and other choices for your Easter Sunday festivities. All proceeds from the sale will go towards the purchase of fruits, vegetables, and canning supplies for the Christmas Bazaar. Questions? Call Lori Ludwig at 356-4753.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 19 – 26, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30; The Adventure Club Karaoke – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; ASIST Workshop – 8:15 a.m.; Tech Talks – 11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	ASIST Workshop – 8:15 a.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Yoga 101 – 11:00 a.m.; Wednesday Lent Lunch and Worship – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study – 1:00 p.m.; Choir – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service (at First Congregational UCC) – 6:00 p.m. <i>(preceded by a soup supper at 5:00 p.m.)</i>
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 11:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study – 5:30 p.m.; Nena’s Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Life Line Screening; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 6:00
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church and C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrates and shares God's love and compassion.**

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Geri Hanson, Karen Wekwert, Bob Laity, Ray Bailey, Beverly Page, Cathy Neizka, Crystal Nelson, William Taylor, Kaye Remboski, Marty Peterson, Charles Atkinson, Judy Hand, Nancy Bredeweg, Peter Goodreau, Ron Compeau, Lori Ludwig, Mary Kuhl, Adam Schmidt, Mya Hall, Myra Gapske, Judy Burley, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Jerry Swanson, Larkin Kerby, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you please help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you for your partnership in prayer.)*

**We remember our prayer partners** in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Rev. Edward Ruble

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for the Children's Church Ministry.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** (foot of the cross) are given to the glory of God

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Ash Wed. (03/08) 12:30 p.m.	Income 21,945.97	21,947.95
Saturday (03/11) 5:30 p.m. 60	Expenses <u>31,490.88</u>	<u>31,490.88</u>
Sunday (03/12) 9:00 a.m.	Difference (9,544.91)	(9,544.91)
10:30 a.m. <u>17</u>		
Total		

**Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Lenten Educational Opportunities, that will run through April 5<sup>th</sup>!** Pastor John's Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class also meets on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will do a Book Study "On Death and Dying" by Kubler Ross, and Miss Nena will do a Bible Study - "Fierce - Women of the Bible Who Changed the World" by Jennifer Cowart (DVD).

**The Wednesday Lent Services continue weekly and the next one is on March 22nd.** There will be two opportunities for you to worship that day:

- \* 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m.
- \* 6:00 p.m. for the Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational UCC. There will be a soup supper at 5:00 p.m. preceding the worship service.

**We will have a Baked Potato Bar on Saturday, March 18th, after the 5:30 p.m. service.** Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices of toppings and ice cream and toppings. Also, there will be a Chinese raffle. The 3M Men in Motion for Ministry group is putting on this event. We hope to see you there!

**The Adventure Club will host Karaoke on the 19th of March from 1:00 - 3:00 PM.** We will be singing Karaoke and dancing. Come, be part of this wonderful expression of fun within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

**Council packets have been sent out electronically.** Printed copies will be available at Tuesday's meeting.

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

“Return to the Lord”

S 142b

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 Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,  
and lead us forth in joy with shouts  
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING HYMN**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

(Red) #815

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

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## EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

### LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

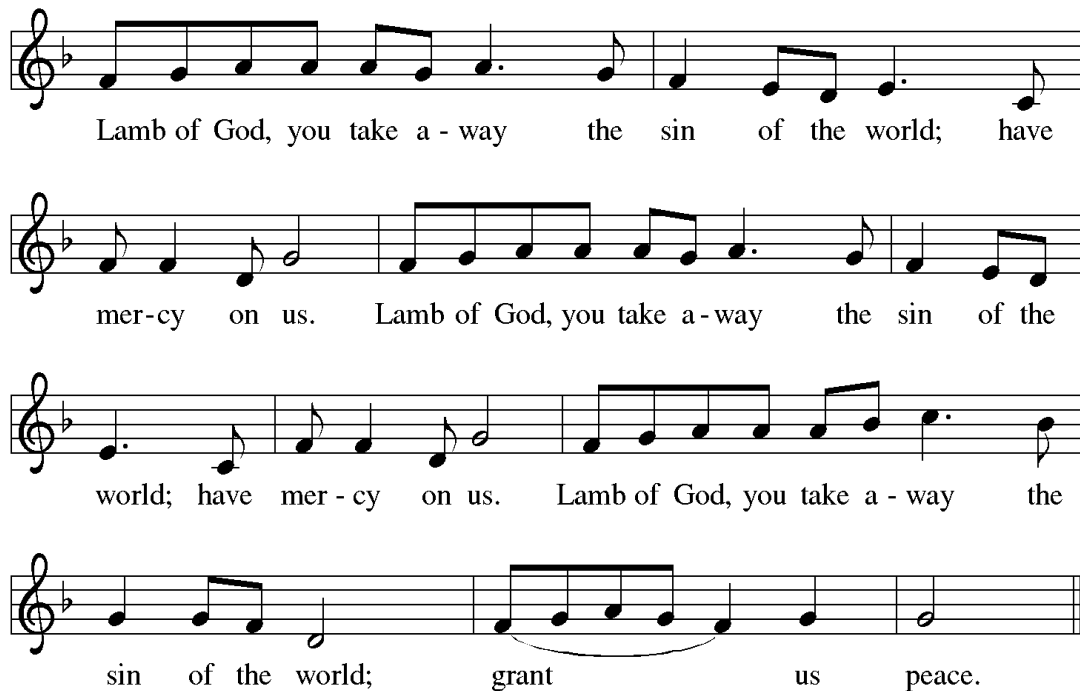
**People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*(Pleased be seated)*

### HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Christ is both the host and the meal. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. There is grape juice for those who prefer it.

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>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?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>18</sup>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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>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." <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>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?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to



one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> 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.” <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The Gospel of Our Lord.  
(Please be seated)

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

“I Was Blind Now I See”

Pastor John

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

(Red) #779

**Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed**

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

\*Universal

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Merciful God,  
receive our prayer.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE BACK & THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . (concluding) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy Holy

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore you! My  
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi

F G C Am F G7 C  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.  
cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to - e - res Se - ñor.