

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 2026

WELCOME! The Gospel reading for today is the story of the man born blind who was healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In Holy Baptism, God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. And God anoints our head with water and the Word, and calls us to bear witness to Christ in our lives!

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE OPENING HYMN –

“When to Our World the Savior Came” *tune: Tallis’ Cannon LSB #883* #551

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(taken from D.S. V—p213)*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*

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.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

I believe that:

- + I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.
- + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
- + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
- + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
- + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

- “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #425
- Special Music
- “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” #637

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” *v. 1* #617
Post-Communion Collect p218

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” #873

THE POSTLUDE

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P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

All: Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING — Isaiah 42:14-21, ESV Pew Bibles, page 716

In this reading, the Servant of the Lord cries out with words of warning and words of hope. He beckons us all to listen and see that without God we can do no good thing.

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING — Ephesians 5:8-14, ESV Pew Bibles, page 1162

In this reading, St. Paul tells us that because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct ourselves and our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

[St. Paul wrote:] 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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL PREPARATION FOR LENT

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

C: 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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – John 9:1-41, ESV

Pew Bibles p1064

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Displayed on the screens up front because of length.]

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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THE SERMON HYMN – "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" vs. 1-3

#545

THE SERMON

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" v. 4

#545

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS-

(8:00) "O Son of God, in Galilee"

(10:30) "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

#841
on screen

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (8:00)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (10:30) (Please see back page to prepare.)

Preface

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"Holy, Holy, Holy" vs. 1-2

#507

Lord's Prayer

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Words of Institution and Pax Domini

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Agnus Dei

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