

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

7:00 pm



***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”***

Luke 4:18-19

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1822 East Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

(309) 662-3935

Website: www.OurRedeemerLCMS.net

Email: office@OurRedeemerLCMS.net

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OUR MISSION

“The Our Redeemer church family exists to **welcome** people to faith;
help people **grow** in the faith that works in real life;
and **serve** our community and the world together in **Jesus’** name.”

GUESTS AND MEMBERS – WELCOME TO OUR REDEEMER

We’re happy that you’ve joined us in worship, especially if you are a visitor with us.
We pray that the Lord who led you here would lead you into a time of knowing Him better,
trusting in Him more, and growing deeper in His love as He places His Word
and cross before your eyes, ears, and hearts.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE

Please see an usher for assistance with these items.

COVID-19 Reminder

As ministry opportunities sponsored by Our Redeemer continue to resume onsite and elsewhere, the leadership of our congregation recognizes the new challenges that exist when gathering together. Below is a reminder to consider before participating in any worship service or activity:

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. We are doing everything we can to be compliant with all regulations and ensure your safety. We have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that you or family members will not become infected with COVID-19.

Acknowledgments

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LENTEN WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

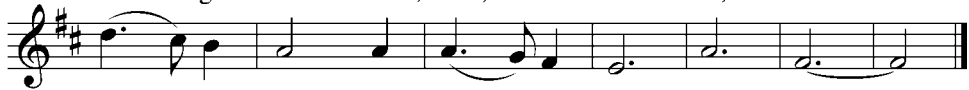
LSB 570 v. 1, 2, 4



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 146

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

C: Amen.

P: Christ Jesus reigns as King in wisdom and grace. He opens our eyes of faith as He opened the eyes of the blind.

C: He allows us to see His love and mercy. Amen.

P: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P: The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

P: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

C: The Lord loves the righteous.

P: The Lord watches over the sojourners;

C: He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

CONFESSION

P: In Psalm 146, the Spirit encourages us to cry out to God because He is our help and the only one who can save us. It is God who gives us all we need for life in this world and in the world to come. It is God who reigns forever, and all the earthly powers we look to help will fade away. With those thoughts in mind, together we humbly make our confession. It is true, Father in heaven,

C: We are people who often look for political and social organizations to save and protect, to cure and to heal. These are good gifts of Your kingdom of power, but You are still the creator and preserver.

P: We sometimes have given more thought to the secular and passing than the heavenly and eternal,

C: And sometimes we are blind and deaf because we choose to walk in darkness; we choose not to listen to Your voice.

P: We have not always cried out to You for help,

C: But we often complain to and about everyone else; and sometimes our complaint is that You have not done enough to cure us.

P: Father in heaven, we have sinned against You and have acted foolishly.

C: Father in heaven, we have sinned against You and our neighbor. We stand before You in need of forgiveness. In our blindness, grant the light of Christ. Free us from our darkness.

P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, the merciful anointed one.

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

ABSOLUTION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Leviticus 19:9-15

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Peter 1:5-21

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 9:27-31

And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.” But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON

“The Spirit Anointed Christ to Recover Sight to the Blind”

Matthew 9:27-31

- Blindness
 - Physical
 - Spiritual
 - New Testament times: The origin of disease is linked with the activity of _____ and the bondage of his _____ kingdom.
 - Direct Consequence?
 - 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. ... 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 9:2-7, 39-41)

- Jesus redirects our _____.
- And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” *(Luke 13:2-5)*
- Repentance of sins was not the special need of _____.
- Do we see the things Jesus was anointed to fix in mercy as “_____”?
- And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. *(Luke 7:22)*
- We want everything to be spiritual and forget that Jesus came in a real _____, died a real _____, shed real _____, and did it for real _____.
- Jesus’ mercy for spiritual *and* physical blindness
 - Lutheran World Relief

PRAYERS

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

C: 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.

CLOSING BLESSING

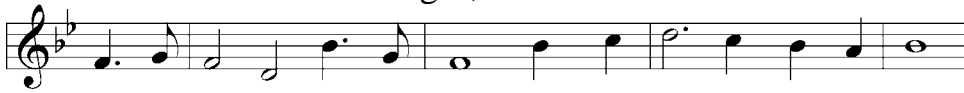
P: May God the Father who spoke the Word, Jesus who is the Word, and the Holy Spirit who makes the Word alive in your heart bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

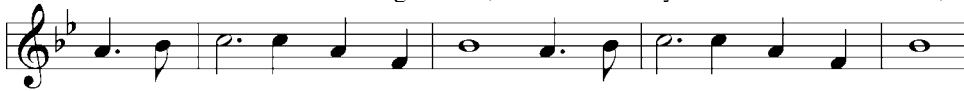
CLOSING HYMN

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

LSB 761 v. 1, 2, 4



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Serving Us

Pastor - Rev. Peter Weeks

Director of Youth and Family Ministry - Arlyn Meyer

Organist - Trudy Rowold

Elder: Chris Byers (275-5040)

*Lenten Worship Services conclude next
Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00 pm with the theme
“The Spirit Anointed Christ to Free the Bruised.”*