

4th Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

Liturgy: TLH p. 5

Organist: Lana Strike



FIXING OUR
EYES ON
Jesus

The background of the central section is a large, close-up image of a human eye. The iris and pupil are visible, and inside the pupil, there is a small, faint image of a crucifixion scene. The overall color palette is warm, with reds and oranges.

ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #149

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

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

C ♪ **Amen.**

P Pastor

Confession of Our Sins

C **Congregation**

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

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.

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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

The Introit

Ps. 27:4-6; 25:15

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- C** **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.**
- P** 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.
- C** **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.**

The Gloria Patri

WS #775:5

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

C ♪ **Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!**

The Salutation

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- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect Prayer of the Day

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- P** 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** ♪ **Amen.**



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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸ Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.



Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

C I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Choir

"Surely, He Hath Borne Our Grievs"

Hymn: TLH #550:1-4, 7, 9

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"



John 9

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ 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 ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸ 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?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ 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." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶

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. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ 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." ²² (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.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ 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?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ 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. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you

believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

Jesus Saw A Man
- and then -
A Man Saw Jesus

The Offertory

☞ *♩ 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.*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: WS #777 *"Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound"*

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

The Benediction *Numbers 6:24-26*

The blessing given by God for His people.

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 His peace.

☞ *♩ Amen, amen, a – men.*

Hymn: TLH #417:1-2, 5-7 *"How Can I Thank Thee, Lord"*

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Tour Choir – Students of Immanuel High School, College, and Seminary will be visiting our congregation on Saturday, March 21st so that we may hear them use their gifts in a 6:30 pm choir concert. Thank you to everyone who signed up to house a couple choir members for the evening. Hosts will not need to provide an evening meal, as the choir will be eating at church before the concert. (Hosts will need to provide breakfast on Sunday morning, however.) After the concert, the congregation is invited to join the choir in a finger food potluck. Please be sure to come hear the concert, and invite a friend!

Lent Continues as Pastor Naumann from Mankato visits this Wednesday evening, preaching on Jesus' Final Words: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

ILHS Visitors Day – Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI will host their annual High School Visitors Day on Friday, May 1, 2026 for students grades 7 and up. An invitation letter, schedule of events, and online registration can be found at www.ilc.edu. Please register students and chaperones by Friday, April 24. For more information regarding ILHS Visitors Day, please contact Prof. Matt Thurow (matt.thurow@ilc.edu 612-516-1177) For general questions regarding the high school program, please contact the high school principal, Prof. Joel Gullerud (joel.gullerud@ilc.edu 715-544-8446).

CLC Call News – Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison heights, MI, has **accepted** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN. His installation will be April 26th.

Ushers	3/15	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	3/22	Kendall B, Larry B.
	3/29	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning	This Week – The Ruthenbecks (wk. 2)	
	Up Next – DeWall, Bass	