

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026

As We Gather

Today's message, Seeing in the Trial, centers on Jesus' healing of the man born blind in John 9. This Gospel account reveals how Christ's light restores sight while exposing fear, pride, and resistance. Joined with the prophet Habakkuk's watchful trust, the message invites us to stand with Christ when faith becomes visible and costly, confident that He seeks and strengthens those the world pushes aside.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn Come, My Soul, with Every Care (LSB 779)
sts. 1, 5–6

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 142:1

P With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
C **with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.**

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we were born in utter sin. To this day and by nature, we have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. We have trusted in the things we have made rather than You. Our thoughts, words, and actions have been unfruitful and dark. We have been blind to our sin, but You have seen it. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,**

open our eyes. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus is the light of the world and your salvation. He has enlightened you with His gifts and given you ears to hear Jesus' words. It is He who is speaking to you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit

Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

P One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C **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;

C **He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.**

P 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;

C **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

Kyrie *LSB 186*

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

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve judgment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs. Give us new eyes, that we may see Your merciful goodness and give thanks for all the ways Your light scatters our darkness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *1 Samuel 16:1–13*

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." 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?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 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 sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

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.**

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–3, 6–7, 13, 16–17, 24–25, 26–27, 34–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 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.

Having said these things, he spat 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.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

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. 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.”

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.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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?”

They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (LSB 439) *st. 8*

Sermon Series: Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title: Seeing in the Trial *John 9:1–41*

Apostles' Creed

C **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.

Offering Christ, the Life of All the Living (LSB 420)

sts. 1–3

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

P ... Lord in Your mercy

C **Shine on us.**

✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠



We follow the liturgy on Pages 194-202 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 194*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 195*

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

Distribution Hymns

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (LSB 434)
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (LSB 437)
Go to Dark Gethsemane (LSB 436)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✢ forgiven you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Salutation *LSB 201*

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

Benediction *LSB 202*

Closing Hymn

Christ, the Life of All the Living (LSB 420) *sts. 6–7*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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