

United Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 19, 2023



WORSHIP PREPARATION PRAYER

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

To all in attendance today:

- Please fill out the attendance form found as an insert in the Weekly Witness and place it in the woven basket in the Narthex as you leave.
- You may take your used bulletin and Weekly Witness with you or place them in the wire basket in the Narthex.
- If you are unable to come to the altar, please indicate your desire for communion to an usher.

◆ = Congregation Stands P = Pastor A = Assistant C = Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ GATHERED IN GRATITUDE

C Baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ and Nourished by His Supper, we are United in Gratitude, Living Everywhere the Love of the Triune God.

P Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers,

C but our delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law we meditate day and night.

P We are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. *Psalm 1:1-3*

◆ GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **T** one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

(silence for self-examination)

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of **T** the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

◆ GATHERING HYMN

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"
ELW #843

◆ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C And also with you.

◆ KYRIE

Cantor

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

For the peace from a-b-ove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,

Cantor

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

Cantor

let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

Congregation

A - men.

◆ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Lord Christ,

C bend your ear to our prayers 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.**

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The 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.” ²Samuel 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.’” ³Invite 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.” ⁴Samuel 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?” ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But 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.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel 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.” ¹²He 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.”

¹³Then 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.

A Word of God, word of life.

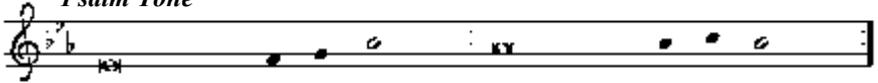
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:

Psalm 23

*Cantor chants the light printed verses to the Psalm Tone & Refrain.
The Congregation likewise, chants the Bold printed verses & Refrain.*

Psalm Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Goodlight* Year C, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Refrain



You have anointed my head with oil

Psalm 23:1

Psalm text reproduced from *Psalter for Goodlight* Year C, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

- ¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.
- ²**The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹side still waters.**
- ³You restore my¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.
- ⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me.**
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.
- ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever. Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

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

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

◆ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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.”²² 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.²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So 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.”²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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 Then 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, “Here is an astonishing 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 he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony

◆ **APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

◆ **PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

*Each petition will end with the pastor saying, “Lord, in your mercy” . . .
The congregation responds with . . . “Hear our prayer.”*

◆ **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Song Over the Waters”
Don Green

◆ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry,
Ho - san - na in the high - est,
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

◆ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

◆ **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus Christ died and was raised for sinners. We qualify.

At United we practice Open Communion.

Those who will receive forgiveness of sins are welcome to the Table.

The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light colored liquid is grape juice.

For those who need an alternative to wheat flour wafers, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

“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. A-men.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.

C Amen

◆ **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Bread of Life,

C we do not live by bread alone. We live by your Promise of Life revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. We give thanks that you have fed us this Bread of Life from your table today. Strengthen us through your Bread to be the Life for others you have been for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

◆ **BENEDICTION**

P Now receive the Benediction.

(Congregation: Face your neighbor.)

**C The Lord blesses you and keeps you;
The Lord's face shines upon you and is gracious to you;
The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.**

◆ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord by taking care of one another.

C Thanks be to God.

SENDING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

St. Ignatius of Loyola Sayings and Quotes

As far as possible give no foothold to sloth,
the source of all evils.

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Our Staff

Pastor— Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony

Church Office Secretary—Karen Daffer
 Bookkeeper—Jo Hill

Secretary for Pastoral Care—Marie Sandell
 Financial Secretary—Denice Hoops



Altar Flowers

are provided today to the glory of God
 by **Wayne & Marny Janssen**
 in celebration of the marriage of
 Eric & Mandy Janssen.

| Worship Leaders for March 19 | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Leadership Position | Sunday 9:30 a.m. |
| Organist | Denice Hoops |
| Cantor | Roger Jaques |
| Acolyte | Gavin Frazier |
| Lector | John Miller |
| Usher | Laura Thalken |
| Greeter | Theresa Webster |
| Communion Assistants | Petro & Mary Kot |
| Parking Lot Monitor | |

Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

Guidelines for Wedding, Baptism, and Funeral Services at United

Before setting a date or making plans for a wedding, baptism, or funeral at United, please contact the church office to clear a date. This is to ensure the availability of the pastor and facility. Baptisms and weddings are not done during the church season of Lent. Additionally, weddings are not held during Holy Week or busy church seasons.