



Messiah
Evangelical Lutheran Church
NEW BERLIN, PA

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday, March 22, 2020
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

An Order of Worship to be prayed at home in your family or watching the video on [Facebook](#)

✠ OPENING ✠

Gather around a sacred space in your home. Light the votive candle from Candlemas or another candle.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,
All: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory 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.

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM 63:1-8

Leader: The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.

All: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings will rejoice.

My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast

Leader: The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.

All: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

✠ WORD ✠

READING

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE TO THE FIRST READING

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

This is a setting of Psalm 23 by Marty Haugen. It is sung by CarolAnn and Craig Miller. Sing along at home.

Refrain
All

Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life. to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 to stanza 4 life.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the melody for the first part of the refrain, with lyrics 'Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from'. The second line contains the melody for the second part of the refrain, with lyrics 'death in - to life. life.'. There are two boxed annotations above the second line: 'to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5' and 'to stanza 4', indicating where the music is repeated in the full song.



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



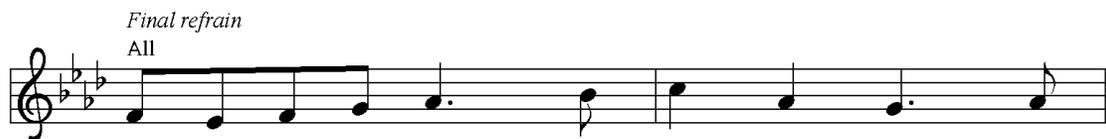
ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

All: **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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They 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?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pr. Chilton shares some reflections on God's Word for us today.

If you are not watching the video, take a few minutes to reflect together on God's activity and the text.

HYMN

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

Sung by Hannah and Jillian Fee. Played by Janine Fee. Sing along at home:

Refrain



Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am



help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways



dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris M. Akers, b.1922
Tune: Doris M. Akers, b.1922, harm. by Richard Smallwood
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STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

HANNAH FEE

SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Leader: In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

All: In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

PRAYERS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn,
bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

- for the sustaining goodness of your creation...
- for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...
- for the gifts of relationship with others...
- for the communion of faith in your church...
- for neighbors, friends, family, and strangers supporting each other this day...

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children,
and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

- for Donald, our president, Tom, our governor, and all those who govern...
- for Elizabeth and Barbara our bishops, and all leaders of your church...
- for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...
- for healthcare workers, first responders, grocers, truckers,
and all keeping us safe and fed...
- for all who work for peace and international harmony...
- for all with high anxiety and wondering of what tomorrow will bring...

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
Amen.

PEACE

Share a sign of God's peace with one another.

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