



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son came not to be served but to serve. As we follow in His footsteps, give us wisdom, patience, and courage to minister in His name to all who suffer and are in need; for the sake of Him who laid down His life for us, Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD” (John 9) For this, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, the Holy Gospel proclaims one of the most “closely knit” sections of the entire book of John. (Brown 2:376) In these forty-one verses (9:1-41) the progression is from darkness to increasing light and from insight to increasing blindness. Raymond Brown writes: *“The blind man emerges from these pages in John as one of the most attractive figures of the Gospels. The blind man’s confutation of the Pharisees in verses 24-34 is one of the most cleverly [presented] dialogues in the [entire] New Testament.”* (1:377)

Today, we hear Jesus’ own announcement that He is the Light of the World and we are baptized into His death and resurrection that made it possible “that those who do not see may be able to see” (John 9:39) with the eyes of faith. Martin Luther writes: *So let every man, if he has received a blessing or gift from God, learn to divest himself of it, shun it, give it up, in order that he may not look to himself, but rather note how his neighbor is reflected in himself. Then he will surely say, “Ah, God, now I see clearly that what my brother is outwardly, I am inwardly.” Thus he learns to know himself and not to exalt himself. So it is ordained and nobody can evade it. For we see in all the words and works of Christ nothing but pure humility. That’s what happened also in this Gospel. The blind man was a sign of the blindness that lay hidden in our hearts. And it follows from this that what Augustine said is true, that the works of Christ are words and the words are works. Therefore at the end of this Gospel, when the aloof and spiritual Jews said, “Are we also blind?” our Lord concludes, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see’, your guilt remains” [John 9:40-41]. Look what an upside-down judgment that is for Christ to make! Therefore one must try to understand all the gifts that a man can have. Those whom we think are learned are ignorant in the sight of God. And anybody who does not know this will have a bad time of it in the judgment of God.*

–Martin Luther.

OPENING VERSE

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Cong.: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 118:24)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“Rise, Shine, You People” [LSB hymn 825]



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
 He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
 Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
 To all the world go out and tell the
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
 driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
 sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: Amen.

(Matthew 28:19b)

Pastor: 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.

(Hebrews 10:22)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Cong.: who made heaven and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

Cong.: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Psalm 32:5)

SALUTATION

(2 Timothy 4:22)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong.: And with your spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

Cong.: Amen.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Elder: The Lord be with you.

Cong.: And also with you.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

The Servant of the Lord is revealed as he is sent by God to establish a new covenant of grace with those suffering from spiritual deafness and blindness.

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

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

Saint Paul describes the fruits of faith – the fruits of being children of Christ’s mercy.

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.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Holy Gospel (page 895 in the pew Bibles)

John 9:1-41

Jesus turns “the darkness before them into light” (Isaiah 42:16) because He is “the light of the world”.

As [Jesus] 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. 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 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.

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?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 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.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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.” 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.”

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 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." (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.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 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. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 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?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

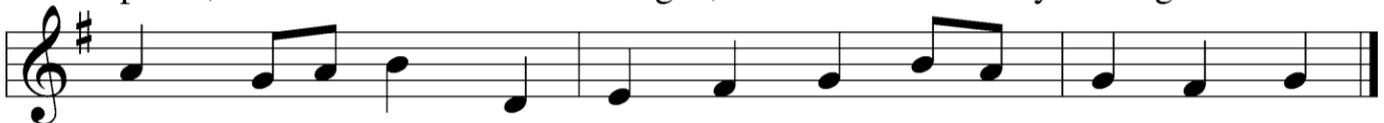
“When to Our World the Savior Came” [LSB hymn 551]



1 When to our world the Sav - ior came The sick and
 2 That good phy - si - cian! Night and day The peo - ple
 3 His prais - es then were heard and sung By o - pened
 4 Of long a - go: yet liv - ing still, Who died for
 5 His sov - 'reign pur - pose still re - mains Who rose in



help - less heard His name, And in their weak - ness
 thronged a - bout His way; And won - der ran from
 ears and loos - ened tongue, While light - ened eyes could
 us on Cal - v'ry's hill; Who tri - umphed o - ver
 pow'r, and lives and reigns; Till ev - 'ry tongue con -



longed to see The heal - ing Christ of Gal - i - lee.
 soul to soul, “The touch of Christ has made us whole!”
 see and know The heal - ing Christ of long a - go.
 cross and grave, His heal - ing hands stretched forth to save.
 fess His praise, The heal - ing Christ of all our days.

SERMON
“A Light in the Dark World”
(Pastor Jim Toma)

OFFERTORY

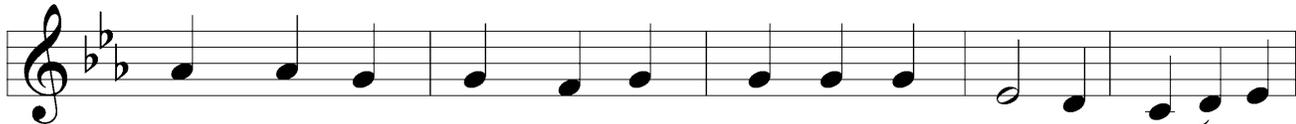
(Psalm 51:10-12)



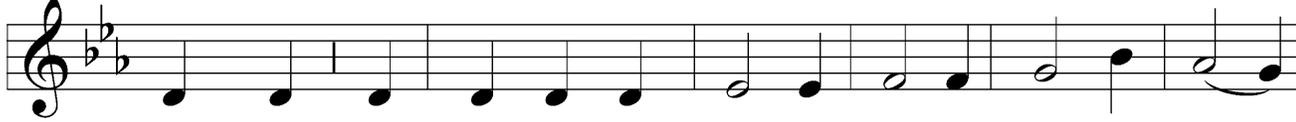
C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Pastor: *Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

O holy Lord, You have opened the eyes of Your Church to behold the light of Christ. Grant that we may always walk in His light and not return to the darkness of sin that blinds us to the truth of Your saving Gospel.

Almighty God, it is shameful even to speak of the unfruitful works of darkness we fall into when we sin. We pray that You would send us pastors who expose our sin through the preaching of Your Law, and who also raise us from the death of sin through the preaching of Your holy Gospel.

Merciful Father, through holy Baptism You grant us the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, who grants us spiritual sight. Keep us firmly in the faith that You established in us, that we may always look to Christ alone for salvation with our eyes fixed upon His cross where He died for our sins.

Everlasting God, grant Your peace to all the nations of our world, and especially give wisdom and compassion to the leaders of our nation. Bless us also with faithful and devout citizens who will defend the weak and helpless, including the unborn and the infirm.

Gracious Lord, there are many in our world and community who are in need. We pray for those who are poor, homeless, or hungry among us, that You would grant them all that they need to support this body and life. Open the hearts of all who are blessed with more than they need, that they would be generous toward those in want.

Heavenly Father, we pray that You would grant gainful employment to all who are able to work but cannot find jobs that meet the needs of their families. Provide for their necessities and keep them from losing heart.

Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless Lutheran Social Services, who through the love of Jesus Christ embrace those in crisis, equip individuals and families with program resources, and empower people to break the cycle of poverty to become self-sufficient.

Blessed Lord, we pray that You would grant healing to all those who suffer from any affliction of body or soul. Shine upon them with Your mercy, according to Your good and gracious will, and continually remind them of Your love and care for them. Keep safe all who are traveling, especially...

Pastor: *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Cong.: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

**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.**

COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Cong.: Amen.

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Pastor: 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 peace.

Cong.: Amen.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” [LSB hymn 418]



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

(Psalm 103:1)

LAST SUNDAY WE PRAYED FOR:

HEALING **Barbara Toma** (recovering from the flu); **Eileen Hansen** (relief for constant pain); **Bruce** (Pastor's brother, reoccurrence of cancer); **Robert Stewart** (still in Ronald Reagan Hospital awaiting treatment); **Loren Kiner** (Lucas & Alexandra Bissett's grandfather, undergoing cancer treatments); **Margie Medhus** (being treated for kidney problems).

ASSURANCE/ENCOURAGEMENT **David Byler** & all being affected during this time of 'coronavirus, COVID-19 isolation': keep our minds focused on Your Word and direction that we may be delivered from fear & weariness in well-doing.

OUR HOMEBOUND **Betty Erickson, Jeff Florer, Eileen Hansen, Jeffrey Heiner, Shari Hansen Knoppel, Robert Stewart, George & Harriett Tisler, Marie Wilbur, and Doreen Zike.**

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Robert Stewart 3/22; Donna Dehne 3/24; Paul Jurenka 3/24; Lauren Flores 3/24; Maria Jurenka 3/26; Ron Smith 3/26; Caryn Keller 3/27; Joan Harris 3/28.

THIS WEEK'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Greg & Damara Wingerd 3/22; Andrew & Jennifer Koehler 3/23; Larry & Judy Norlander 3/28.

THIS WEEK'S BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS: Barbara Foutz 3/24; Joaquin Rice 3/26.

For Further Information Please Call the Church Office at 714-846-6330

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

BIBLE STUDIES

“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ” (Romans 10:17)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

“Ephesians” (9:15 AM with Vicar Hanna in the Youth Room)

REDEEMER'S STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 107

God has given each of us gifts and calls us in 1 Peter 4:10,11 to "use them to serve one another that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ".



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP Psalm 142:5 “I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’” The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to the sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, and He is in control. We can follow His Word in confidence.

OFFERINGS can be mailed or dropped off at the Church Office.

AROUND REDEEMER

WORSHIP SERVICES AT REDEEMER Because of the coronavirus/COVID-19 there will be no worship services March 22 and 29. We will send email information regarding Holy Week services and beyond when we have more information.

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY There will not be a Breakfast Bible Study on April 11th. Join us for or Easter Vigil Worship service that evening at 7:00 PM.

SAVE THE DATES Vacation Bible School July 13th – 17th and **Music Camp** August 3rd – 7th. If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact Bonnie Volkert at bonnievolkert@gmail.com or Pat Anderson at deaconess@redeemer-lutheran.net .

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING Redeemer members are encouraged to attend the Voters Assembly on April 26th at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a one item meeting about admission of Tom Miller to the Specific Ministry Pastor Roster.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION and/or Holy Communion is offered by appointment. Please call the church office and talk to Pastor Toma to arrange a date and time.

MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

REV. DENNIS & DEACONESS LORNA MEEKER email at 4kenyaskids@gmail.com

REV. DANIEL & KATHY CONRAD for information see <https://www.lcms.org/conrad>

REV. MICHAEL AND KAREN SCHEMPF email at mschempf@gmail.com

For information on where you can send support, contact the church office.

SUPPORT VICAR NADER HANNA'S MINISTRY

You can donate Thrivent choice dollars to Nader Hanna's work with Muslims, "**Salaam Ministries**", which is a 501(C)(3) Lutheran Charity. He is part of "Muslims for the Messiah", led by Rev. Hesham Shehab, an LCMS pastor. Please find below short instructions on how Thrivent members can donate their choice dollars online: 1. Log in to your Thrivent account, scroll down Thrivent main page. 2. Under "resources", click on "livegenerously.com". 3. Scroll down to "Thrivent choice", click on "direct choice dollars". 4. Search with the organization name; click on "Muslims for the Messiah", then "log in to direct now". 5. Under "direct choice now" click on "direct all" OR "direct this amount" and fill in the amount. You can contact Nader Hanna at PastorNader@gmail.com or (714) 724-2985. **Salaam Ministries** brochures are available in the church office. *Salaam: as in shalom "peace and well-being in God". "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.*

LUTHERAN TELEVISION, RADIO, & ONLINE PROGRAMS

DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY SERMON OR BIBLE STUDY SESSION? Hundreds of sermons and Bible studies from Redeemer Lutheran are available on our website in the Media Center or online at www.redeemer-lutheran.net. Sermon podcasts can be found on our website at <https://redeemer-lutheran.net/category/sermons/>.

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DAILY, CHRIST OFFERS HIS RICH BLESSINGS THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES. SUGGESTED READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2020:	
Sunday, March 22:	Genesis 41:28-57; Isaiah 42:14-21; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
Monday, March 23:	Genesis 42:1-34, 38 & Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday, March 24:	Genesis 43:1-28 & Mark 12:13-27
Wednesday, March 25:	Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34 & Mark 12:28-44
Thursday, March 26:	Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28 & Mark 13:1-23
Friday, March 27:	Genesis 47:1-31 & Mark 13:24-37
Saturday, March 28:	Genesis 49:29-50:7, 14-26 & Mark 14:1-11
Sunday, March 29:	Exodus 1:1-22; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE ALONE GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE CHRIST ALONE



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Jim Toma, Pastor jbtoma@redeemer-lutheran.net

Pat Anderson, Deaconess deaconess@redeemer-lutheran.net

SCHOOL: 714-840-7117 Office Hours: Mon- Fri 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Lauren Heckman, Preschool Director preschool.director@redeemer-lutheran.net

Church and Preschool Website: www.redeemer-lutheran.net 'This is Most Certainly True' podcasts

CLEAR WITNESS ✝ CARING SERVICE

Our mission is to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, worship Him and grow in his grace and to share those Holy gifts, by making disciples for Christ, who reach out joyfully to the world around them.

A CONGREGATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD