

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holstein, IA March 15, 2026 9:00 A.M.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed by king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

We confess that we have misused this earth.

Forgive us Lord.

We confess that we are driven to get more of this world's goods than we need and are tempted to seek security in our possessions. We are often insensitive to the needs of those around us and unwilling to share your blessings freely with others.

We follow our own dreams instead of the Christ, and trust our own will rather than yours.

Forgive us Lord. Hear us for the sake of Jesus, your Chosen One.

Reclaim us in Christ's love, breathe into us your Holy Spirit that we may be strengthened to live as your sons and daughters. Amen.

There is good news for us: Jesus was crucified for our forgiveness and raised from death so that we can live a new life. We are God's new creation in Christ.

Glory be to God!

Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome

#641

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, 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.

WORD

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 his 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(Read Responsively)

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, the comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk 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; rather, 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."

The Word of the Lord.

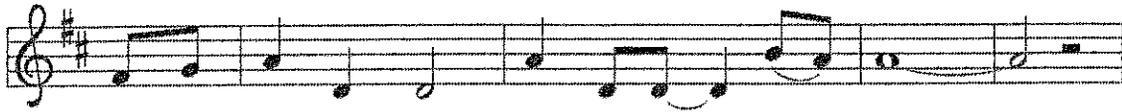
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The 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?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He 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." 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 Then 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."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So 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." 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 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."

²⁴ So 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, 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.

³⁵ Jesus 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 who were with 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Trish Underberg

Hymn of the Day *Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

Refrain: My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God,
my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Refrain (2x)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio, 2006 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 the People

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper, where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine, or if you require a gluten-free wafer.

The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I won't hunger anymore at His table. (repeat)

Refrain: Come all you weary, Come and find
His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

There is peace at the table of the Lord. There is peace at the table of the Lord.
I won't worry anymore at His table.

There is healing at the table of the Lord. There is healing at the table of the Lord.
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table. **Refrain**

I know He has a place for me. Oh, what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God.

Come all you weary, Come and find
His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord, at the table of the Lord.

I'm invited to the table of the Lord. I'm invited to the table of the Lord.
He says, "Come just as you are", to His table.

Tomlin, Cash, Jolley, 2014 Worship Together Music, CCLI License #833795

Prayer After Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

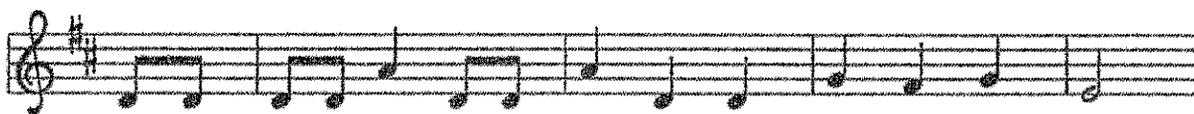
Amen.

Closing Song

Let Us Enter In



- 1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.
- 2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.
- 3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: LET US ENTER IN, Ray Makeever

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
Pulpit Supply:	Pastor Trish Underberg
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Nash Boling
Deacons:	John Walsh and Justin Georg
Greeters:	Bob & Connie Butcher
Acolytes:	Layla Peterson and Olivia Stevenson
Sound & Video:	Kyle and Kreighton Krager
Coffee Hosts:	Sue & Allen Fitch Amy & Adam Bisenius

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, March 15 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee and fellowship

TUESDAY, March 17

9:00 AM	Sewing Day
7:00 PM	Trustees meeting

WEDNESDAY, March 18

5:00 PM	LOGOS ~ "God's Mission"
6:15 PM	Lent Supper
7:00 PM	Lenten Evening Prayer Service

THURSDAY, March 19

2:00 PM	"12 Women of the Bible" - Women's Bible Study
7:00 PM	Congregation Council meeting

SUNDAY, March 22 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee and fellowship