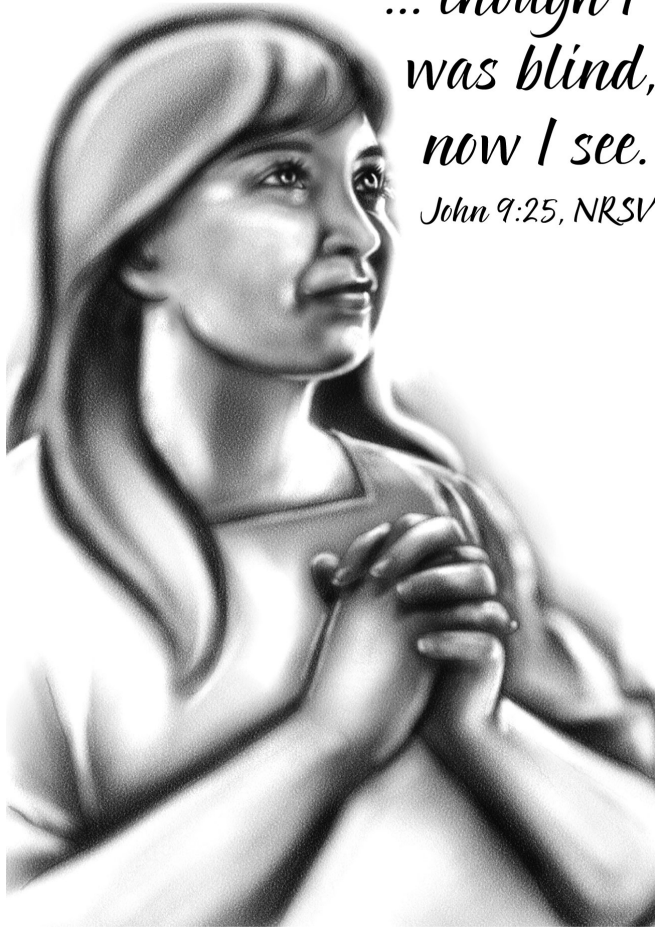


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*... though I  
was blind,  
now I see.  
John 9:25, NRSV*



GOD PROVIDES  
SIGHT FOR THE BLIND

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 19, 2023



## Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

## Service Notes For This Service



We know that unbelief will have consequences in the future—eternal separation from God. But unbelief also has consequences now. It makes you blind, in a sense. The unbeliever is unable to see the world as it really is. That which is harmful the unbeliever considers good; that which is good he considers meaningless. The unbeliever cannot see the danger that lurks behind temptation. He cannot see the blessing contained in God's Word. The unbeliever cannot see the tragic fate that lies in his future, and he certainly cannot see the Savior.

The Old Testament said that restoration of sight to the blind was one of the works of the Messiah. In his ministry, Jesus healed those who were physically blind. But even if our eyes work just fine, we still need Jesus to give us spiritual vision. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Jesus meets our greatest needs. He provides sight for the spiritually blind.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 10 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Acknowledgements

Setting Two from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

# The Service: Setting Two

*Setting Two begins on page 172 of the hymnal*

## Welcome

### Hymn

537 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

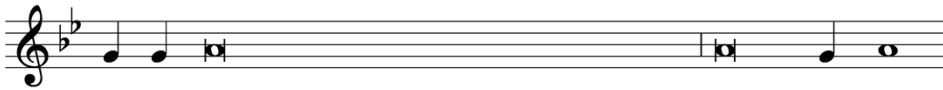
**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174



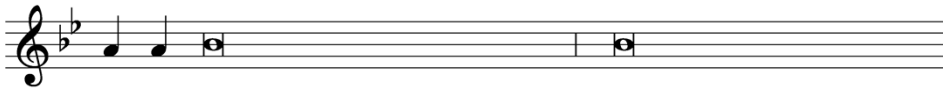
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**A - men.**

Tune: Marty Haugen. © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*During the somber season of Lent, the Gloria and Alleluias are omitted. While our tones of praise are slightly muted during our march to the Savior's cross, we look forward to welcoming back these joyful songs when we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. The service continues with The Word.*

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

*God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness into light.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

*27B O LORD, You Are My Light*



1 O LORD, you are my light and my sal - va - tion near;  
2 My one re - quest has been and still this prayer I raise;  
3 When trou - bles round me swell, when fears and dan - gers throng,  
4 Up - lift - ed on a rock a - bove my foes a - round,



then who will cause me fright or fill my heart with fear?  
that I may live with - in God's house for all my days.  
se - cure - ly I will dwell in his pa - vil - ion strong.  
a - mid the bat - tle shock my song shall still re - sound.



While God my strength, my life sus - tains, se - cure from fear my  
God's glo - rious beau - ty to ad - mire, and in his tem - ple  
With - in the shel - ter of God's tent he hides me till the  
Then joy - ful of - f'rings I will bring; the LORD God's praise my



soul re - mains, se - cure from fear my soul re - mains.  
to in - quire, and in his tem - ple to in - quire.  
storm is spent, he hides me till the storm is spent.  
heart shall sing, the LORD God's praise my heart shall sing.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

*Those who have seen the light of Christ strive to leave deeds of darkness behind.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 12:2



### Refrain



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

*Pastor sings:*

Let us fix our eyes on Je - / sus,  
the pioneer and perfect - / er of faith.

### Refrain

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## Gospel

John 9:1–7,13–17,34–39

*Jesus provides both physical and spiritual sight to a man who had been born blind.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Children's Message

## Hymn of the Day

515 *Christ Is the World's Light*

## Sermon

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Connect Card**

*Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

**Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.**

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who is blind to the message of your gospel, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer*

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

**Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, that we and many more might join the heavenly assembly to sing your praise forever.

**Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

### **Special Prayers This Week**

- † Ruth (Pat) Bowes celebrated her 99th birthday on March 17
- † John & Carole Melso were called to serve Pilgrim Lutheran School in Mesa, Arizona
- † For our call meeting on Tuesday
- †
- †
- †

### **Offering**

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



### **Musical Offering**

*Before the Throne of God Above*

### **Questions for Examination**

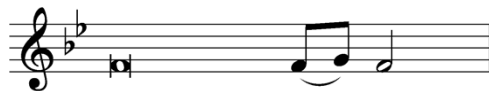
- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

# The Sacrament

Stand

## Preface

CW 183



The Lord be with you.



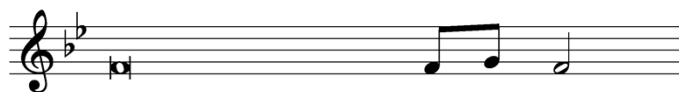
**And al - so with you.**



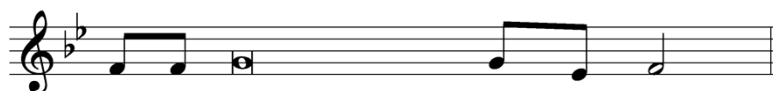
Lift up your hearts.



**We lift them up to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984, 1985, 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
 God of 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, ho -  
 san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\text{T}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\text{T}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

*Be seated*

## **Distribution**

### **Distribution Hymn**

*663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

### **Distribution Hymn**

*611 Joyously I'll Praise My Savior*

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and  $\text{T}$  give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Hymn**

*576 Amazing Grace*



# Take Home Questions

---

1. Reread Isaiah 42:16 and make a list of all the promises God gives in this verse alone. Reflect on past experiences in your life, especially times that were difficult or rough. Now, looking back, in what ways did God keep his promises? (You may not always see how God does this, but that doesn't make his promises untrue.) Write a prayer asking God to keep the promises he made you in this verse.
2. Ephesians 5 doesn't say that we were *in* darkness and light but that we *were* darkness and light. Explain the difference between *in* and *were* in this context. In what ways does that impact the things we do in our lives?
3. In the Gospel from John 9 we see two kinds of blindness. One could not see the Way to salvation but believes; the other sees the Way but rejects him. Can you identify the individuals from this account that match each description? In what ways does Jesus minister to each?
4. In the Prayer of the Day we said, "Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely." Think through the things that fill your day and humbly evaluate them. What actions or habits (even small ones) may fit that description? Then, with those things in mind, pray the prayer again.

# News & Announcements

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## **This Sunday's Bible Study: Jonah: The Grumpiest Missionary**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM  
For the Google Meet link, contact Pastor Proeber.

## **Easter for Kids on Saturday**

*March 25 | 9:00-11:45 AM*

Children ages 3-10 are invited to Easter for Kids on Saturday. It will be a morning for crafts, music, and other fun, all centered on Jesus' resurrection. Pre-registration is appreciated. See the Ministry Table or [www.stpaulswr.org/easter-for-kids](http://www.stpaulswr.org/easter-for-kids).

## **Call Meeting on Tuesday**

*March 21 | 6:00 PM*

We will be meeting this Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 pm, to extend calls for a 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and for a principal. The call meeting will take place immediately before the meeting of the Leadership Council.

## **Return Your Mite Boxes**

The Spring Mission Rally is on April 15 in Stratford. If you have a mission mite box, please turn in your money by Palm Sunday, April 2. It will be taken to the LWMS mission rally.

## **Newsletter Help Needed**

*March 23 | 1:00 PM*

We need a couple more people to help with the assembly of our church newsletter. This happens once a month, usually on the third or fourth Thursday of the month, at 1:00 pm. The work involves folding, applying seals, affixing address labels, and placing them in the mailslots. Most of the work can be done while sitting. If you can help, just come this Thursday at 1:00.

## **Order Plants for Easter**

Your plants will decorate the church on Easter morning. Then they are yours to keep or give to a friend. See the display in the Welcome Center. Orders are due by Palm Sunday, April 2.

## **7 + 1 Words from the Heart of God**

Christ's seven words from Calvary give us a glimpse into the heart of the omnipotent God himself. Sign up to receive Holy Week Devotionals from Martin Luther College in your email during Holy Week (April 2-9) at [mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions](http://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions).

## **Scrip Purchases Support Our School**

In February, St. Paul's School Scrip program brought in \$1,127.14, including \$422.04 that families earned for their school tuition. Thank you to everyone who supports our school by using scrip!

<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for 3K thru 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Coed Volleyball in the gym
<b>Monday</b>	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Call Meeting in the cafeteria</b>
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Resource Center
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Midweek Lenten Service</b>
	<b>4:45 PM</b>	<b>Fellowship Meal in the cafeteria</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Midweek Lenten Service</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom</b>
<b>Friday</b>	6:30 PM	Set Up for Easter for Kids
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Easter for Kids</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Coed Volleyball

## Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 144

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 657,291

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 515,677

Mortgage Balance \$ 1,036,018





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