

THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF LENT

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Tempe

March 8, 2023

12:00 p.m. & 7:00pm



Amazing Grace Lenten Series Week 2: The Blind Man

AS WE GATHER

In this week's service, we witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all. We were blind but now we see.

THEME VERSE

One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see. John 9:24

PRELUDE

"Largo" from *Concerto in D minor* - Antonio Vivaldi

PASTORAL WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

P As we come together to worship, let us pray together our opening prayer.

C **O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me. I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; and all of me, forgiven. Having received your Amazing Grace, send me out by the power of your Spirit to try to show your perfect love again. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN. "Jesus Refuge Of The Weary" LSB #423 V:1-3

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.**
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant
vow, Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your
thorn-encircled brow? Yet Your sinless death has brought
us Life eternal, peace, and rest; Only what Your grace has
taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.**
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love
for You; May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross
anew Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's
side, Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the
Crucified.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 146:5-10)

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

C Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

P Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,

C Who gives food to the hungry.

P The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

P The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

C The Lord watches over the sojourners;

P He upholds the widow and the fatherless,

C But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

P The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C Praise the Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Jesus showed grace to the blind man and restored his sight. Trusting in God's compassion and saving love, we confess our sins and ask his forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C Almighty God, although we claim to see and know so much, all too often we are lost in the blindness of our sins. We follow tempting pathways instead of walking in your commandments. We act according to our own desires instead of obeying the guidance of your holy Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Open our eyes so that, by faith, we will see the wonders of your love and grace.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. The Lord and Messiah, who opened the eyes of the blind, came to lay down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind!

HYMN OF ABSOLUTION

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB 422 V 1

1 On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace, That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase; Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, Is my life, my hope’s foundation, And my glory and salvation!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, we pray that by your Spirit you would grant us the clear sight of faith to see the wonders of your love and power in our lives. Through Jesus’ redeeming death, we have forgiveness and eternal life. As the blind man told others about the miracle that had been accomplished in his life, help us to witness boldly to your amazing grace and tell others of the hope and peace that can be theirs through faith in Jesus. As the man who was healed worshiped Jesus, we too worship Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in his holy name.

C Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON Helping Us See

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:4-10

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.[a]

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-9

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away

from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Grace Alone" -Scott Brown & Jeff Nelson

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GOSPEL REFRAIN

“Jesus Remember Me” LSB 767

1 **Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-7, 24-38

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

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

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

²⁴ So for the second time the pharisees called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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 And 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, “Why, this is an amazing 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 if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE’S CREED

All: 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

“Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old” LSB #846 V 1-3

- 1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death, O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute, The palsied and the
lame, The lepers in their misery, The sick with fevered frame**
- 2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health, Gave speech
and strength and sight; And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
Revealed You, Lord of light. And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty as before, In crowded street, by beds of pain,
As by Gennes'et's shore.**
- 3 O be our great deliv'rer still, The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, With Your life-giving
breath. To hands that work and eyes that see Give wisdom's
healing pow'r That whole and sick and weak and strong May
praise You evermore.**

SERMON

Grace For The Blind

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Amazing Grace!” LBS #744 V. 1, 2

- 1 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!**
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope
secures; He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Almighty God, during his earthly ministry, your Son, our Lord Jesus, healed the sick and restored sight to the blind. He fulfilled all that

the Scriptures had foretold of the Messiah. His healing miracles proved him to be the Son of God and the promised Messiah. We give you thanks and praise for your saving work through Jesus our Savior. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, give us eyes of faith to see the miracles that you have done and continue to do in our lives, especially the miracle of our salvation in Jesus. Help us to see clearly your truth and to grow in grace as we see Jesus revealed in your holy Word. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we pray for those who are suffering through illness, fear and grief. According to your will, bring them comfort and healing. Lead us to serve them as we offer help to them in their need. Help them to see clearly the hope and encouragement found in the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, the man whose sight was restored worshiped Jesus as Messiah and Lord. Give us the clear sight of faith so that we too will faithfully worship Jesus as our Savior and King. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

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.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P So we are always of good courage.

C We know that while we are at home in the body we are away

from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Lead Me, Guide Me” LSB #721 V 1-3

Refrain Lead me, guide me, along the way; For if You lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow’r
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain**

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain**

**3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, always let me Thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain**

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Lent:

**March 15, 12pm & 7pm Third Wednesday in Lent Worship
22, 12pm & 7pm Fourth Wednesday in Lent Worship
29, 12pm & 7pm Fifth Wednesday in Lent Worship**

Holy Week:

**April 2, 10am Palm Sunday
6, 12pm & 6pm Maundy Thursday
7, 3pm & 7pm Good Friday
8, 7pm Easter Vigil**

9, 8:00am Easter Sunrise Worship

9, 9:00am Easter Breakfast

9, 10am The Resurrection of Our Lord w/Holy Communion

POSTLUDE

"O Love, How Deep" [DEO GRACIAS] - Setting by Paul Manz

SERVING US AT WORSHIP:

Officiant Preacher:

Rev. Tim Anderson

Organist/Director of Music:

Ellen Brown

Song Leader 7pm:

Wendell Robson

Special Music 7pm:

The Beautiful Savior Singers