

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023

Sight For The Blind

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| Opening Hymn | 518, "Christ Be My Leader" |
| Order of Service..... | Setting Two, Page 172 |
| Prayer of the Day: 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. | |
| FIRST READING | |
| Psalm of the Day (<i>On Insert</i>)..... | Psalm 27C |
| SECOND READING | |
| Gospel Acclamation | Page 179 |
| Gospel Acclamation Verse: <i>Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, /* the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (SUNG! – See Pg. 179 – Bottom of Page – for melody.)</i> | |
| GOSPEL | |
| Hymn of the Day | 707, "Cling Tightly to the Word of God" |
| SERMON..... | "Jesus Is the Light of the World" John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39 |
| Offering Hymn | 750 v. 1, "We Give Thee but Thine Own" |
| Nicene Creed | Pages 180-181 |
| Communion Liturgy | Page 183 |
| Communion Hymn..... | 670, "I Come, O Savior, to Your Table" |
| Closing Liturgy | Page 187 |
| Closing Hymn | 904 vv. 1 & 2, "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" |

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:14-21

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

I have been silent for a long time. I have kept still. I have restrained myself. But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream. I will gasp and pant. I will dry up mountains and hills. I will make all their grass wither. I will turn rivers into islands. I will dry up pools. I will lead the blind on a way they do not know. Along paths they do not know I will direct them. Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light and rough places into level ground. These are the things I will accomplish for them. I will not abandon them. They will be turned back and completely disgraced—those who trust in an idol, those who say to molten images, "You are our gods." You deaf ones, listen! You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see! Who is as blind as my servant? Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent? Who is as blind as my associate, as blind as the servant of the LORD? You, Israel, see

many things, but you do not observe. Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear. Because of his own righteousness, the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

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

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. Therefore it is said, "Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

GOSPEL: John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

Jesus miraculously enables a man who had been born blind to see the Christ both physically and spiritually.

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. 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 God's works might be revealed in connection with him. I must do 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."

After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man's eyes. "Go," Jesus told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man told them. "I washed, and now I see." Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others were saying, "How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?" There was division among them, so they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?" The man replied, "He is a prophet." They answered him, "You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" "Who is he, sir," the man replied, "that I may believe in him?" Jesus answered, "You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" and he knelt down and worshipped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

ORGANISTS!! The **April** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES: Our Lenten services will be held on **Wednesday, March 22**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Jonathan Loescher of Bethany, Hustisford. Please join us!

PIZZA-MAKING/ORDER PICK-UP TIMES: We are still looking for volunteers to help make the pizzas from our recent PTL sale. This will be done on **Friday, March 24**, from **3:15 PM – 9:00 PM** -and- **Saturday, March 25**, from **7:30 AM – until done**. If you would be willing to help, please sign up on the sheets posted on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board in the school hallway. Any questions about this sale may be directed to **Brian Youngbeck (920) 296-1128**. Thanks to everyone who helps with or supported this sale!

For those who have ordered pizzas, your orders will be ready to be picked up at the school on **Saturday, March 25**, from **11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. We ask that you make every effort to pick up your pizza orders during those times!

EASTER LILIES: If you wish to order a lily (or lilies) to be placed in church for the services on Easter Sunday, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board in the school hallway. Lilies will be purchased only for those who sign up! After the Easter services, the lily is yours to take home and enjoy. The cost is **\$12.00** per plant. (Original quoted price of \$16.50 was incorrect!) The last day to order is **Palm Sunday, April 2**.

PTL MEETING: All school parents are reminded of the PTL meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, March 20**, beginning at **6:30 PM**. We urge all parents to take an active roll in what's happening at your children's school!

WLA – HOT LUNCH: St. Matthew's has been assigned the dates of **April 12-14, 2023**, to help serve hot lunch at WLA. The hours of service are from **9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**. If this is something you would be willing to do, please sign up on the sheet hanging on the church bulletin board. If you would like more information about helping, please contact **Wayne Schultz (920-948-1978)**. Thank you!

LWMS SPRING RALLY: This year's spring mission rally will be held on **Saturday, April 15, 2023**, at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** (777 S. Indiana Avenue, West Bend). It will be co-hosted by Shepherd of the Hills and St. John, Newburg. The speakers will be **Stefan & Kathy Feigenhauer**. Stefan is the Director of World Missions Operations. Stefan and Kathy will be giving the latest updates on our world mission work occurring in 44 countries. Stefan will also inspire those in attendance with his own journey to Christianity. A sign-up sheet to attend is posted on the LWMS bulletin board in the hallway by Mr. Lorge's classroom. Registration begins at **8:30 AM**. The rally concludes at **12:30 PM**. Women and men are invited to attend! Questions about the rally may be directed to **Becky Schulz**, our LWMS coordinator.

WLA – "THE EVENT": A Night in Hollywood! "The Event" (dinner auction) will be held on **Saturday, April 29**, at **South Hills Country Club** in **Fond du Lac**. Funds raised will support the purchase of a new chapel piano, as well as the WLA Endowment. Purchase tickets at wlvikings.org/theevent or by calling **920-921-4930**. Register by April 1 to receive early bird pricing! We are also seeking donations of items for the silent auction (theme baskets, services, gift cards, etc.), as well as larger items or experiences for the live auction. You will find sponsorship and donation forms on the website, or you can drop off silent auction donations to the school office. If you have any questions, please contact **Johanna Yenter (jyenter@wlvikings.org)**.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Lenten Services: 60/34; Sunday: 76

Offerings: Lenten Services: \$988.00; Sunday: \$2,953.00

Tuition: \$1,413.48; **4K Tuition:** \$135.60

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,889.00)

Special Funds: Church Refurbishment: \$50.00

Memorials: In Memory of Wilma Jaster: \$30.00 *(Church Refurbishment);*

In Memory of Gerry Weiss: \$20.00 *(Church Refurbishment)*

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

Monday: **SCHOOL RESUMES!!**
PTL Meeting6:30 PM

Wednesday: Lenten Worship Services.....3:15 PM/7:00 PM

Thursday: Adult Choir.....8:00 PM

Friday: **Pizza-Making**.....3:15 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday: **Pizza-Making**..... 7:30 AM – Until Done
Pizza Pick-Up Times: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday: Worship Service (**Fellowship Sunday**)9:00 AM

27C The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27C

Refrain



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Tone



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***