

Lent



About the Cover

Jesus brought mud, washing, and His Word together to give sight to a man who was born blind. Then Jesus used His Word to let the man know whom he was looking at. The gift of physical sight was only a preamble to the spiritual sight the man needed to see the Son of Man. Jesus is still granting us the eyes of faith to see His work. He unites His Word with water to wash away our sin. He brings His Word together with bread and wine to give us His very body and blood, given and shed for us. Jesus continues to open eyes by faith, helping people see Him at work and delivering them forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

The Light Gives Light

The book of Proverbs says that “the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day” while “the way of the wicked is like deep darkness” (Proverbs 4:18). Jesus is “Light of Light” as we confess in the Nicene Creed. He shines in the midst of a perverse and deeply darkened world so that all flesh might see the glory of God.

He heals a blind man on the Sabbath. The disciples quibble over the question of the cause of blindness: “Who sinned, the blind man or his parents?” They are oblivious to what the Lord is about to accomplish. The Pharisees are more concerned that Jesus has broken a regulation safeguarding the Sabbath. Ironically, the disciples and the Pharisees are blinded by the Light! Their impaired vision cannot comprehend that Jesus is “the true light, which gives light to everyone” (John 1:9).

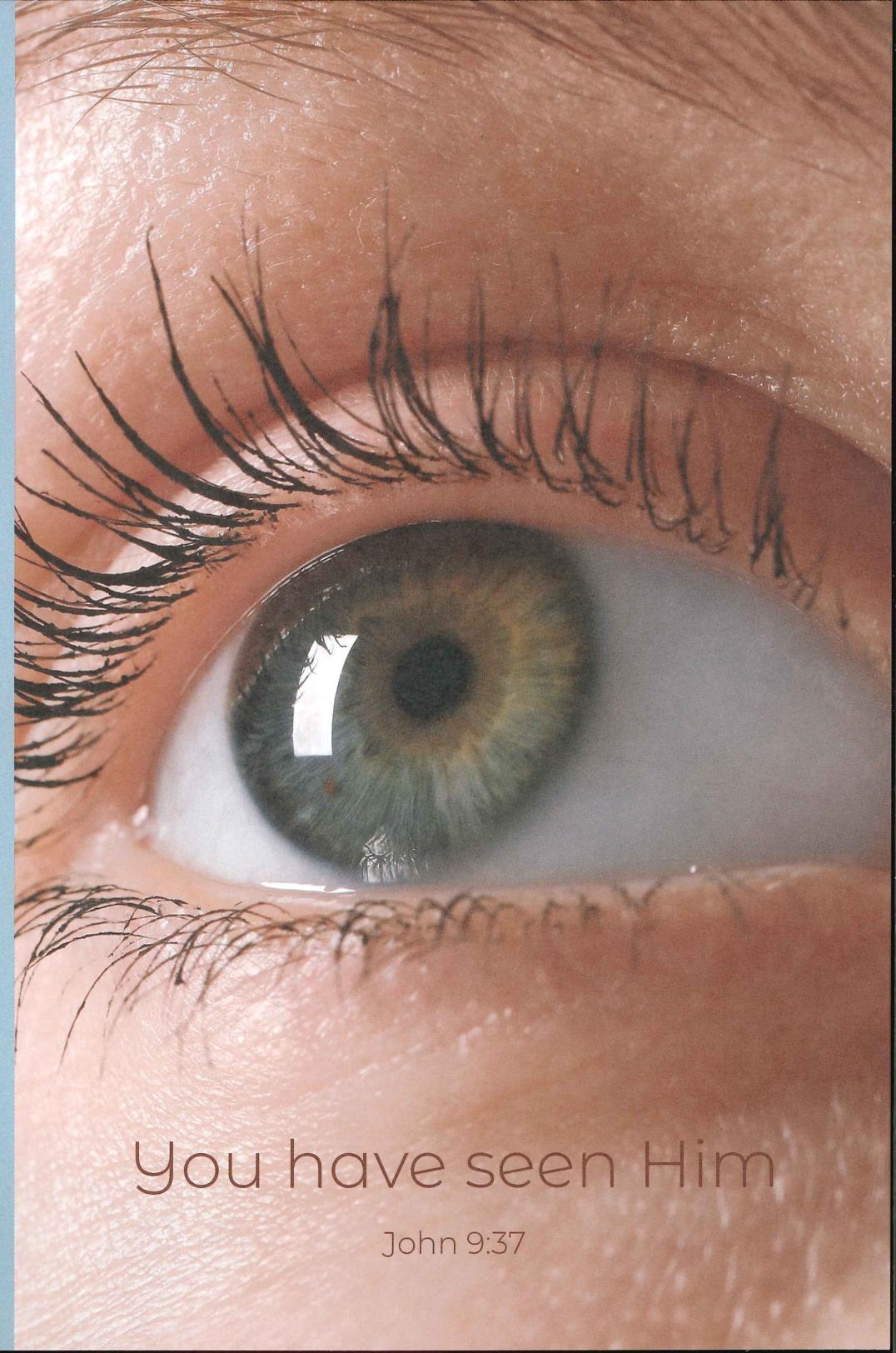
It is finally the blind man who sees and confesses Jesus as the Lord that He is. Intoxicated by the righteousness of the Law, the Pharisees cannot see, and their hearts are veiled (see 2 Corinthians 3:12–18). But with His words and touch, Jesus opens vacant eyes to see, and a man born blind walks in the Light that cannot be overcome by the darkness.

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illuminated with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face (LSB 704:1). Amen.

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PORTALS
of PRAYER

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You have seen Him

John 9:37



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March 15, 2026
Lent 4

Welcome; The kids feed the mission pig.

OPENING HYMN; #571 God Loved the World

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

C. Amen.

O Lord, open my lips,

And my mouth will declare your praise;

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness;

Therefore you are feared.

With King David, we pray, "Have mercy on me O God, according to your steadfast love; blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Through the cleansing power of Jesus' blood, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Go in peace.

Amen.

Introit and Collect on the insert in the bulletin;

The Children are dismissed for "Kid's Church."

Parish Joys and Concerns; Prayer requests;

Lord in your mercy;

C. Hear our prayer.

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Song before the Readings; **Ancient Words, Michael Smith**

Holy words long preserved, For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words im--part

Words of life, Words of hope,
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world where e'er we roam,
Ancient words will guide us home. **Chorus**

Chorus;

**Ancient words ever true,
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words im--part**

Holy words, of our faith, handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice,
O heed the faithful words of Christ **Chorus;**

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS; After each reading;

P. This is the Word of the Lord; **C. Thanks be to God.**

Hymn; #430 My Song is Love, Unknown (vs. 1-3, 7)

The Message;

The Nicene Creed; inside back cover of hymnal;

The Offering;

THE LORD'S SUPPER

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also 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.

It is good right and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; who overcame the assaults of the devil, and gave His life as a ransom for many.

Barouch Hattah, Adonoi, Elloheinu, Mellech ha olam; chemotsi lechem, min ha aretz

"Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, for You bring forth Bread from the earth." Father, by your Bread from Heaven, Your Son, Jesus, the Bread of Life, You brought life and immortality to light. Feed us and unite us as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us;

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Our Church Believes the following regarding The Lord's Supper;

1. I am a baptized Child of God.
2. I trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior.
3. I confess my sins and my need for God's grace; along with a desire to live a new life in Christ;
4. I believe that Christ is truly present in this Sacrament with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

If any question, see the Pastor before the service.

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.



The Words of Institution; P. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, - the same night in which he was betrayed ...- -The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C. And also with you; Amen.

The Distribution;

Post Communion; **The Thanksgiving;**

P. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C. And His steadfast love lasts forever. We give thanks to you almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you, that of your mercy, you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

P. Oh the depth, and the riches, and the knowledge of God

C. How unsearchable His wisdom, and His paths beyond searching out.

For from Him , and through Him, and to Him are all things.

To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Colossians 3:15-17 ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the Word of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with gratitude in your hearts to God.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

C. Amen.

The Closing Song; Grace Alone;

Every promise, we can make; Every prayer and step of faith,
 Every difference we will make; is only by His grace.
 Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
 Every blessing left behind, is only by His grace; **Chorus;**

Chorus

*Grace alone, which God supplies; Strength unknown, he will provide
 Christ in us, our corner-stone; we will go forth, in grace alone.*

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach.
 Every – where we share His peace; is only by his grace.
 Every loving word we say; every tear we wipe away;
 Every sorrow turned to praise, is only by His grace. **Chorus;**

Happy Birthday

Cheryl Foreman; Mar. 16
 Trish Campbell Mar. 17
 Shawn Levin Mar. 17
 Dawson Stephens Mar. 17



this week to:

Anniversary Today;

Bill & Joann Brooks; March 15,1996

The Book of Acts study continues;

We meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
Women's Bible Study Group; Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., at the PAC
 Wednesday; Last Confirmation Class - 4:30

Confirmation; Next Sunday! Maximus Lee Adams - to be confirmed in Christ.

March 29 - Breakfast Sunday - Pot Luck Breakfast in the P. Hall; Breakfast served at 9:00. Service to follow in the Parish Hall.

Attendance Last Week: 77

Lent Services Continue; Our Lent 4 service *"The Widow & Her Mite,"* will be Wednesday, Mar. 18, starting at 7:00 p.m. We will have a time of refreshments, cookies, and such afterward.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14–21

- ¹⁴ 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.
- ¹⁵ 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.
- ¹⁶ 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.
- ¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
- ¹⁸ Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
- ¹⁹ 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?
- ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
- ²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Holy Gospel: John 9:1–41

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your

eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.”

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But 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.” ²²(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.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So 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.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He 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?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

INTROIT Ps. 27:4–6; antiphon: Ps. 25:15

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody | to 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.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

GRADUAL Heb. 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*

the founder and perfecter | of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*

and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

DAILY READINGS

March 15: Gen. 41:28–57; Mark 11:20–33; **16:** Gen. 42:1–34, 38; Mark 12:1–12; **17:** Gen. 43:1–28; Mark 12:13–27; **18:** Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34; Mark 12:28–44; **19:** Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28; Mark 13:1–23; **20:** Gen. 47:1–31; Mark 13:24–37; **21:** Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26; Mark 14:1–11.

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