



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082 651-439-7831 www.salemlutheran.org

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Our Greatest Needs— Sight for the Blind

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Loving Savior, you are truly the Light of the world. Open our eyes to see the blessings you so richly hold out before us, and turn our faces from the distractions and temptations of the world around us. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: In a sense, unbelief makes a person blind. The unbeliever is unable to see the world as it really is. That which is harmful seems good; that which is good seems meaningless. The unbeliever doesn't see the danger behind temptation or the blessing in God's Word. Unbelievers cannot see the tragic fate that lies in their future, or the Savior who acted in love to save them from it. The Old Testament said that the Messiah would restore sight to the blind. In his ministry, Jesus healed those were physically blind. But he also worked, and works still, to bring spiritual vision to the spiritually blind. Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. We need this spiritual sight and once again we see Jesus meet one of our greatest needs.

Our Worship Series: Our greatest needs are universal. We all live under the curse of sin, leaving us utterly helpless in our natural state. Left in sin, people are doomed to death, spiritually, physically, and eternally. Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs, but also find that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. This Lent, the Spirit makes one thing clear: If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano: Paige Reiners

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Order of Worship



Gathering Rite: Remember Your Love

All: Refrain



M: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call, God hears.

C: (Sing Refrain)

M: If you dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand? But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.

C: (Sing Refrain)

M: O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me. My heart cries out for your presence; it is you I seek.

C: (Sing Refrain)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

- M: 1. Lord Jesus, obedient in the desert: (Sing line below)
 - 2. Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation: (Sing line below)
 - 3. Lord Jesus, the flood of living water: (Sing line below)



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

All: Refrain



(10:30 am) Sacrament of Baptism

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:

M: Briar Beth Falch, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart + to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

(All Services) Exhortation to Parents & Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Briar and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

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

14"For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back.

But now, like a woman in childbirth,

I cry out, I gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation;

I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools.

¹⁶I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,

along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.

17But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.

18"Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see!
19 Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD?
20 You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen."
21 It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

M: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

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

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

³⁴To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Christ is the World's Light

CW 515



Sermon

Based on Ephesians 5:8-14

"Jesus opens our eyes"

- 1) Christ brings light to our darkness
- 2) Christians bring light to life

Please stand after the sermon.



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.

Be seated.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.



We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

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.

Blessing

M: 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 + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

CW 517



- 1 Praise the one who breaks the dark ness with a lib er -
- 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil-dren with a strong, yet
- 3 Let us praise the Word in car nate, Christ, who suf fered

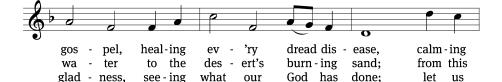


at-ing light; praise the one who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing gen-tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight.
pierc - ing, two-edged sword.
may know God by grace.

Praise the one who preached the Praise the one who brings cool Let us sing for joy and





storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace. well comes liv-ing wa - ter, quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

March WELS Connection

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Our Greatest Needs—Life for the Dead

Bible Readings: 2 Kings 4:17-37; Romans 8:11-19; John 11:17-27, 38-45

Hymns: Remember Your Love, 723, 502



Our special midweek services during the season of Lent will continue next week. Guest pastors from sister WELS churches join us as we journey to the cross with Christ and look at some of the destinations on **His Final Steps.** Each Wednesday, we hold services at 4pm & 7pm, with a fellowship meal served from 5-6:30pm. Past services can be accessed at our website: www.salemlutheran.org/worship.

His Final Steps...

Wednesday, Feb 22 — ...Led to a Dinner Celebration

Wednesday, March 1st — ...Led to a Tomb

Wednesday, March 8th — ...Led to His Enemies

Wednesday, March 15th — ...Led to a Fig Tree

Wednesday, March 22nd — ...Led to Some Greeks

Wednesday, March 29th—...Led to His Father's House Sunday, April 2nd — (Palm Sunday) ...Led to a Donkey

Holy Thursday, April 6th — ...Led to the Upper Room

Good Friday, April 7th — ...Led to the Place of the Skull Easter Sunday Dawn, April 9th (7am) — Hymns and Communion

Easter Sunday Festival, April 9th (8 & 10:45am) -

His First Steps Led Outside His Tomb



Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- **† Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- **†** Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- **†** You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- **†** Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- **†** Children's bulletins & "quiet bags" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "cry room" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- **†** Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

