



FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH

7075 Pacific Avenue S.E.
Lacey, WA 98503

www.faithlutheranlacey.org
www.flschool.org

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

W O R S H I P

8:15am – Traditional
9:30am – Gather & Grow
10:30am - Contemporary

C O N T A C T

Church: 360-491-3552
School: 360-491-1733
Childcare: 360-491-1118
Community
Center: 360-491-3868
Pastor: Greg Strand
pastorgreg@flschool.org

*“Raising Up
Families and Followers
of Jesus Christ”*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:30 AM



“CROSS” ROAD

AS WE GATHER

Some of the central people in the Gospel narratives we get to know by name; others we do not. Although the man born blind is a major person in John 9, we never learn what his name might be. We meet his parents and his neighbors and we meet the Pharisees to whom he tells the story of the miraculous restoration of his sight. Although we do not learn his name, Jesus said of the man born blind that the works of God were displayed in him. As the One brightening our lives with the light of salvation, Jesus brings a new vision to our lives—an eternal vision of life with God that never ends. God knows our names. He directs the cross currents of our daily lives. In His light we see light—and that is what matters!

WELCOME

Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name - In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow - Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name - When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness - Blessed be Your name

Chorus 1

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll - Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord - Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord - Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord - Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name - When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be - Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name - On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering - Blessed be Your name

Bridge

You give and take away - You give and take away
My heart will choose to say - Lord blessed be Your name
You give and take away - You give and take away
My heart will choose to say - Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus 2

Blessed be the name of the Lord - Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord - Blessed be Your glorious name

INVOCATION

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

Congregation **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 119:33–35, 40–41*

Pastor Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

Congregation **Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

Pastor Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Congregation **Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life!**

Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

Congregation **Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.**

Pastor God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.

Congregation **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.

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.

Congregation Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14–21*

¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And 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.

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

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

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.”

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 9:1–41*

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

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

His Mercy Is More

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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SERMON

NICENE CREED

Congregation **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *LSB, p. 215*

Pastor Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation **hear our prayer.**

Pastor May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation **hear our prayer.**

Pastor Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation **hear our prayer.**

Pastor Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Congregation Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor Lord of heaven and earth, we praise You for bringing light to a darkened world. We bless You for calling us to be people who walk as children of the light, secure in the currents of the world around us. We thank You for inviting us to Your Holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and as one with the communion of saints, we pray You to pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Congregation Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Lord's Prayer

Congregation 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 LORD'S SUPPER

Great Are You Lord

Verse

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord
(REPEAT)

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King Of Kings

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting - Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running - There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets - To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory - To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus
Praise the Father - Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one - God of Glory
Majesty - Praise forever to the King of kings

Verse 2
To reveal the kingdom coming - And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation - You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering - You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation - Jesus for our sake You died

Verse 3
And the morning that You rose - All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good - For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs - And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come - To the Father are restored

Verse 4
And the Church of Christ was born - Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old - Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name - In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ - Who has resurrected me

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor Let us pray.
Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Lord of our lives, strengthen and support us so that we may walk as children of the light, and, sharing that kindly light, proclaim Your love to all the world. Bless us day by day, and keep us hope-filled as we await Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Congregation **Amen.**

Your Great Name

Verse 1

Lost are saved find their way - At the sound of Your great Name
All condemned feel no shame - At the sound of Your great Name
Ev'ry fear has no place - At the sound of Your great Name
The enemy he has to leave - At the sound of Your great Name

Chorus

Jesus worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us
The Son of God and man - You are high and lifted up
And all the world will praise - Your great Name

Verse 2

All the weak find their strength - At the sound of Your great Name
Hungry souls receive grace - At the sound of Your great Name
The fatherless find their rest - At the sound of Your great Name
The sick are healed the dead are raised - At the sound of Your great Name

Bridge

Redeemer my Healer Lord Almighty
Defender my Savior You are my King
(REPEAT)

Bridge

Sing the Name of Jesus - We worship the Name of Jesus
We bow before Jesus - There is no other Name but Jesus

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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