

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Lent 3

March 12, 2023

As we noted two Sundays ago, during the Season of Lent we omit the singing of the Alleluias. Why? It reinforces the somber tone of the season, reminding us of our Savior's Passion History, what He endured to save us from our sins. We won't joyfully sing Alleluia again until Easter Sunday morning, when we rejoice that our Savior's suffering is over and His rising from the dead demonstrates He is victorious over sin and death.

In our Old Testament reading the LORD admonished the apostate people of Israel for their self-imposed spiritual blindness and warned them of His coming judgment. In His loving faithfulness, however, He promised to turn the darkness of sin into light of salvation through the coming Savior. In our Epistle lesson, Paul reminded Christians of the darkness of their former sinful way of life and the fruitless deeds it produced. Since Christ has shined on them with the light of the gospel, Paul urged them to "*walk as children of light.*" The gospel records how Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees condemned Jesus showing their spiritual blindness.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service "Rite Two."**

Hymns: 198 (1-4), 151, Amazing Grace, 198 (5-6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:14-21. In words that lay bare the often-perverse nature of sin, the LORD admonished Israel, apostate in self-wrought spiritual blindness. But grace is also promised. The LORD's Servant will come to lead the blind and turn spiritual darkness into saving light.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 143. In this great penitential psalm, the LORD's inspired writer cries out for mercy and forgiveness (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14. Paul used the metaphor of darkness in characterizing the life of the Ephesians before grace came to them. But the grace of God changed them from children of darkness into children of light. Paul exhorts them and us: "*Walk as children of light.*"

Verse of the Day: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:14,15, EHV).

Gospel: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39. Jesus reveals His grace and glory as He heals a man who was born blind. As He does so, He corrects His disciples, who thought some great sin caused the man's physical impairment. In woeful contrast is the willful spiritual blindness of the Pharisees who reject the miracle and its Author. In the end, the one born blind regains much more

than physical eyesight; he sees his Savior in faith. But those who reject the Son of Man retain a blindness that leads to eternal condemnation.

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

Theme - "See In Faith The Real Jesus"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What is apostasy?
- Old Testament: Despite Israel's sin, how did the LORD demonstrate His grace?
- Epistle: What does "*walk as children of light*" look like in our life of faith?
- Gospel: Why did the Pharisees object to Jesus' miracle?
- Gospel: All three lessons today contrast between darkness and light. How did Jesus use this metaphor to teach a spiritual lesson?
- Gospel: How does God shine His saving light on us today?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation Class: Monday from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ **timeofgrace.org** – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

Isaiah 42:14-21 - 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. (EHV™)

Ephesians 5:8-14 - 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.” (EHV™)

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39 – 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.” (EHV™)

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.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
4. When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.