

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Berlin, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



*"With You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light." Psalm 36:9*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Serving Us Today:

Pastor Robert Busse

Organist: Nancy Wallner

920-361-9935

[www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)

**AS WE GATHER...**It's said that darkness is nothing more than the absence of light. Darkness and blindness are words often used throughout Scripture to describe our sinfulness—the absence of the true Light. In our continued Lenten journey, we prepare our hearts for the dark afternoon of Good Friday at the cross. Yet even in that darkness, Jesus Christ brings the light of life. In our times of spiritual blindness and comfort in the darkness of this world, we gather again today to see His light through our vision of Spirit-given faith, that our eyes may look to Him who is the light of the world—the light no darkness can overcome.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS...** Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

**Pre-Service Music**

## Ringing of the Bells

### Welcome

### Confession and Absolution

#### 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849



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,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread 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.

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#### Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God

and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### Service of the Word

**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 upon 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 beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**Kyrie** *LSB 204*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**All 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. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 42:14–21* (Amid the unbelief of His people, God will turn darkness into light.)

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** *Psalm 142* (antiphon: v. 5)

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup>**I pour out my complaint before him;  
I tell my trouble before him.**  
<sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me,  
you know my way!  
**In the path where I walk**

**they have hidden a trap for me.**

<sup>4</sup>Look to the right and see:  
there is none who takes notice of me;  
**no refuge remains to me;**  
**no one cares for my soul.**

<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living."  
<sup>6</sup>**Attend to my cry,**  
**for I am brought very low!**

Deliver me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me!  
<sup>7</sup>**Bring me out of prison,**  
**that I may give thanks to your name!**

The righteous will surround me,  
for you will deal bountifully with me.

**Epistle** *Ephesians 5:8–14 (Once in darkness, we are now children of light in the Lord.)*

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

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

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

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel** *John 9:1–41 (Jesus heals a man born blind.)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

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

"Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He 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." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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

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

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

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Apostles' Creed** *LSB 207*

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

**873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

LSB 873



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise; Tri-umph o'er the shades of night.  
Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
Fill me, ra-dian-cy di-vine, Scat-ter all my un-be-lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap-pear.  
Till they in-ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
More and more Thy-self dis-play, Shin-ing to the per-fect day.

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**Sermon** "Why?" (John 9:1-41 – Pastor Bob Busse)

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church**

**P:** Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, [especially . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully served. Give courage to us all in the face of the coronavirus outbreak. Help us all put our faith and trust in You to deliver us from any and all things that might harm our body and soul.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. As we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer *LSB 209*

**C 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.**

### Luther's Morning Prayer

**C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

### Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

### 810 O God of God, O Light of Light



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and  
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa-cred page, And grand in po-ets'  
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in  
4 Then raise to Christ a might-y song, And shout His name, His





King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of  
wing-ed word, Slow - ly in type, from age to age The na - tions  
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our  
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,  
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night  
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!  
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry  
Rang out the song, "Good-will to men!" Sung once by first - born  
So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your  
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.  
sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.  
King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.  
throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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**Attendance Last Week: 252**

**General giving last week: \$6108.62**

**Budget giving needed: \$7500.00**

## Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

**29 Sunday**

**No Worship/Sunday School/Bible Class/No in house conformation class  
at church**

**29 Sunday**

**CHURCH SERVICE ON RADIO**

**9:30 am**

Tune in to AM 1600 or FM 93.1 from 9:30 – 10:30 each week to hear our St. John service broadcast. You can also listen on your computer anytime by doing the following:

New weekly service will be available starting Thursday afternoon.

GO TO: [www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)

Click on "Church"

Click on "Church Service" tab.

Click on 03.22.20 service

Please note: The bulletin can also be found under the "Church Bulletin" tab.

**Holy Communion:** I will be offering private communion at church to anyone who desires it. Please contact me via cell or text (1-608-797-9130) or email ( [pastor@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnberlin.org) ) to set up a time. I can meet days or evenings to fit your schedule.

### **WEEKDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Please feel to stop in the church anytime during the week if you'd like **(from 9 AM-noon Mon. – Thurs.)** to pick up a bulletin, check your mail, and drop off an offering. Please Note: We record the Sunday service on the previous Wednesday night. The new Sunday service will be on-line every Thursday morning. New bulletins will be available Thursday morning of each week. It may be prudent to call ahead to make sure Cathy or myself are in the office (361-9935). Please use the office doors on the north side of the church if you do stop in.

**ALL CHURCH SERVICES, LENTEN SUPPERS AND FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS TO WHEN WE RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS OF CHURCH AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES.**

**EMAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGE? PHONE # CHANGE?** Please let the church office know so we can keep our records current. You may drop a note in the church office mailbox or write "CHANGED" on your next communion card and then fill in what has changed in your information. Thanks!!

**DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® BY MARCH 31:** Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® from 2019 have until **March 31, 2020**, to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to St John Lutheran Church and School. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.