

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

Theme: Longing for Community

PRELUDE

Darcy Christensen

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God, and to one another. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

**We confess to you, most loving God,  
the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

**We have knowingly believed dishonest words.**

**We have questioned your gracious power again and again.**

**We have given into temptation.**

**We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.**

**In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Gather us back to you.**

**Forgive us, free us, and make us whole  
for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Friends, beloved of God,

Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame,

lead you by the Spirit,

and bring you to wholeness in abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

**Chorus: (sing x2)**

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord**

**Open the eyes of my heart**

**I want to see You**

**I want to see You**

**Verse**

To see You high and lifted up  
 Shining in the light of Your glory  
 Pour out Your power and love  
 As we sing holy holy holy

**Chorus: (sing x2)**

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord**  
**Open the eyes of my heart**  
**I want to see You**  
**I want to see You**

**Verse**

To see You high and lifted up  
 Shining in the light of Your glory  
 Pour out Your power and love  
 As we sing holy holy holy

**Bridge: (sing x2)**

Holy holy holy  
 Holy holy holy  
 Holy holy holy  
 I want to see You, I want to see You.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. God of the overlooked, **we long for you to notice us and find us, speak with us and heal us. When we are bound by fear and blame, grant us the wholeness to believe and accept one another. Lead us from assigning sin and fault, to asking where we each have seen God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Word**BIBLE READING**

Ephesians 5:8-14

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "To God Be The Glory"

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God be the glory great things He has done

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin

And opened the life gate that all may go in

**Chorus**

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son

And give Him the glory great things He has done

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

To God, To God, To God be the glory,

## GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

## SERMON

"Longing for Community"

Pastor Randy Olson

## HYMN OF DAY

ELW #843

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

#### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray  
for the world and its needs.

Responses: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Meal

OFFERING & HYMN            "I Saw the Light"

**Verse 1**

I wandered so aimless life filled with sin  
 I wouldn't let my dear Savior in  
 Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
 Praise the Lord I saw the light

**Chorus**

I saw the light I saw the light  
 No more darkness no more night  
 Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight  
 Praise the Lord I saw the light

**Verse 2**

Just like a blind man I wandered along  
 Worries and fears I claimed for my own  
 Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight  
 Praise the Lord I saw the light

**Chorus**

I saw the light I saw the light  
 No more darkness no more night  
 Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight  
 Praise the Lord I saw the light

I saw the light I saw the light  
 No more darkness no more night  
 Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight  
 Praise the Lord I saw the light

    Praise the Lord I saw the light

    Praise the Lord I saw the light!

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and  
 sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.**  
**Through these gifts of bread and wine,**  
**draw us into the death and life of your Son,**  
**who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**

**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION AND HYMN      ELW#774      "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

- 1      What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
         leaning on the everlasting arms;  
         what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
         leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Refrain: Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus),  
         safe and secure from all alarms;  
         leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus),  
         leaning on the everlasting arms.**

- 2      Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
         leaning on the everlasting arms;  
         oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
         leaning on the everlasting arms.      **To Refrain**

- 3      What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
         leaning on the everlasting arms?  
         I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,

leaning on the everlasting arms. ***To Refrain***

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, **you have met us at this table with Christ's body and blood that we might rejoice together in the bread you provide and never be thirsty again. Send us now into the world as signs of your unbound presence, seeking the wholeness of the kingdom of God, and inviting all who hunger to come and see your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life,  
open your senses to the mystery of God's grace,  
enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love,  
and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life.  
May the Holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN "Blind Man"

#### **Verse 1**

Blindman stood by the road and he cried  
Blindman stood by the road and he cried  
Blindman stood by the road and he cried  
He cried: o-o-oh, show me the way, show me the way  
Show me the way, the way to go home

#### **Verse 2**

Jesus stood by the road and he cried  
Jesus stood by the road and he cried  
Jesus stood by the road and he cried  
He cried: o-o-oh, I am the way  
I am the truth  
I am the way, the way to go home

Jesus (clap)          Jesus (clap)

Jesus (clap)        JESUS!

DISMISSAL:    Go in peace, forgiven, whole and free. **Thanks be to God.**