

*Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield*

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*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



**Color of the Day:** Purple—used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

**Opening Hymn . . . #571 – God Loved the World So That He Gave**

**Confession and Absolution . . . . . Page 151**

*Service of the Word*

**Introit . . . . . Page 152**

*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  
up- | on 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 be- | ginning,\*  
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 . . . . . Page 152**

**Hymn of Praise (Omitted During Lent) . . . . . Page 154**

**Salutation & Collect of the Day . . . . . Page 156**

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.

**Old Testament Reading . . . . . Page 156**

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

<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.

**Gradual . . . . . Page 156**

*Heb. 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing  
the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

**Epistle Reading . . . . . Page 156**

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<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.”

**Lenten Verse . . . . . Page 157**

**Holy Gospel** ..... Page 157

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

<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>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>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."

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** . . . . #411 – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**The Sermon** ..... **Eyes That See**

*John 9:1-41*

**Introduction**

How good are your eyes? \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Questions of Sin and Jesus' Work (v. 1-6)**

One can easily get a handle on this text by \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus goes on to explain \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus has come in order to \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Question of the Neighbors (v. 8-13)**

Jesus healed the man born blind by \_\_\_\_\_ .

A question from the neighbors concerning the man's identity \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Questioning of the Pharisees (v. 14-23)**

First they questioned \_\_\_\_\_ .

They moved to question \_\_\_\_\_ .

**More Questioning (v. 23-24)**

Because they did not get the answers \_\_\_\_\_ .

They asked the blind man a second time \_\_\_\_\_ .

The blind man gives a bold testimony \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Jesus Meets the Man Again (v. 35-41)**

This time Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus has come into the world for \_\_\_\_\_ .

**What Does This Mean?**

First, God brings good \_\_\_\_\_ .

A second point of the text \_\_\_\_\_ .

A third point of the text \_\_\_\_\_ .

Today we come to \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

\_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ .

*Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/>*

**Creed** ..... Page 158/159

**Prayer Of The Church** ..... Page 159

**Offering** ..... Page 159

*Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.*

**Offertory** ..... Page 159

*Service of the Sacrament*

**Preface** ..... Page 160

**Sanctus & Prayer of Thanksgiving** ..... Page 161

**The Words of Our Lord & Lord's Prayer** ..... Page 162

**Pax Domini & Agnus Dei** ..... Page 163

**Distribution** ..... Page 164

*Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.*

**Distribution Hymns**

..... #396 – *Arise and Shine in Splendor*

#841 – *O Son of God, in Galilee*

#568 - *If Your Beloved Son, O God*

**Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis)** ..... Page 165

**Post-Communion Collect & Benediction** ..... Page 166

**Closing Hymn** ..... #551 - *When to Our World the Savior Came*