

Fourth Sunday in

Lent

“Cross” Current

Trinity Lutheran Church
107 N. State St., Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5482
Trinitymerrill.com

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

March 19, 2023 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM

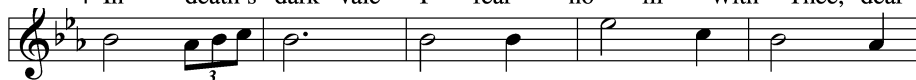
AS WE GATHER Some of the central people in the Gospel narratives we get to know by name; others we do not. Although the man born blind is a major person in John 9, we never learn what his name might be. We meet his parents and his neighbors and we meet the Pharisees to whom he tells the story of the 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!

OPENING SONG “The King Of Love My Shepherd is”

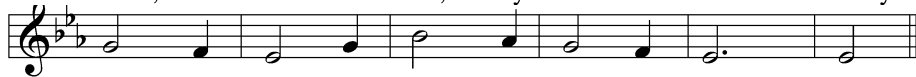
LSB 709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5. *Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From
Thy pure chalice floweth!*

6. *And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!*

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

C **Amen.**

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

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

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

C **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.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

WORD

P In Lent, we reflect on what our Lord Jesus endured to pay the price of our sins. Today, we are reminded that for us He navigated the currents of the world, walked the way of suffering and died on the cross as the Christ, the One anointed for the word of salvation according to the eternal plan of God. The title of "Christ," which focuses us on the saving work of Jesus, is at the heart of the opening lines of the seventeenth century German hymn that has been translated as "Christ, the Life of All the Living." The hymnwriter, Ernst Homburg, placed a superscription over the stanzas that read, "Hymn of Thanksgiving to His Redeemer and Savior for His Bitter Sufferings." With that spirit of thanksgiving shared through the writer's words, we sing the first two and the last two stanzas of "Christ, the Life of All the Living."

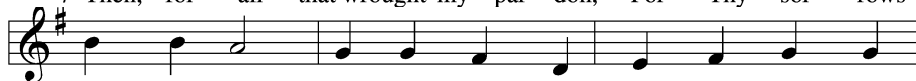
HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

LSB 420, st. 1-2 & 6-7



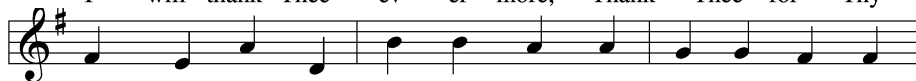
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
 6 Thou hast suf - fered great af - flic - tion And hast borne it
 7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For Thy sor - rows



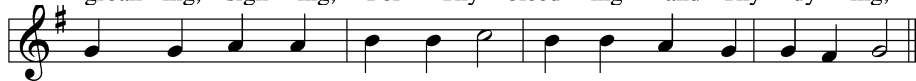
death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
 pa - tient - ly, E - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion,
 deep and sore, For Thine an - guish in the Gar - den,



To the dark - est depths of woe; Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
 Ful - ly to a - tone for me; Thou didst choose to
 I will thank Thee ev - er - more, Thank Thee for Thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 be tor - ment - ed That my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 groan - ing, sigh - ing, For Thy bleed - ing and Thy dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 For that last tri - um - phant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING (The Lord turns darkness into light.)**Isaiah 42:14-21**

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. 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. 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. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 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? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. 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.**

CONNECT TIME

During this time please use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card online at www.trinitymerrill.com/live, text any prayer requests to 715-200-4546, and text your giving amount to 833-341-0335. You can also visit www.trinitymerrill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity.

(8:00 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** "*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*" by the Firm Foundation Ringers

EPISTLE READING (Walking as children of the light)**Ephesians 5:8-14**

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**HOLY GOSPEL** (Jesus heals a man who had been born blind)**John 9:1-41**

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

C **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And 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 the works of God might be

displayed in him. We must work 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." 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 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. 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?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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." 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 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." (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.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 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." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 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. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 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.

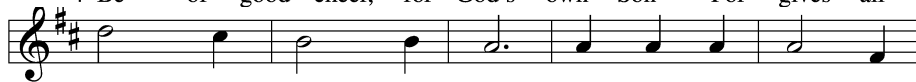
C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loved The World So That He Gave”

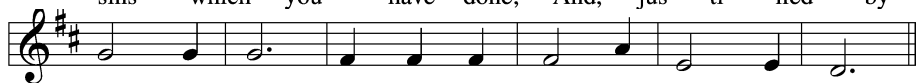
LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5. *If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.*

6. *Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!*

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

CREEDAL HYMN “In God We Believe”

(Tune: AGPS 136)

- Vs.1** *In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.*
- Vs.2** *In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.*
- Vs.3** *God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.*

Text: Gregory J. Wismar. Copyright © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. [Permission is granted to reproduce this text for use until May 28, 2023. The above copyright notice must appear on each reproduction.]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

“CROSS” REFERENCE

P “The Great Exchange” is one of the ways that the gift of salvation given by Jesus Christ on the cross has been described. In the Solid Declaration, the Lutheran Confessions express that sacrificial gift of our Lord in this way: “Therefore, we believe, teach, and confess that the entire obedience of Christ’s entire person (which He has offered to the Father for us, even to His most humiliating death on the cross) is credited to us for righteousness.” Together we sing of the Lamb of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

HYMN

“The Lamb”

LSB 547, rise for st. 5

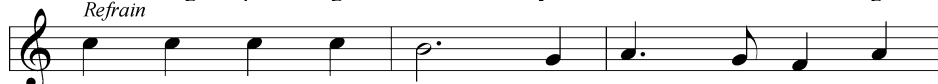


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "On What Has Now Been Sown"

LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text and tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The quotation from the Lutheran Confessions is from *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, second edition; copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

This Weekend's Radio Broadcast is in loving memory of the birthday of Fred Merkel by his wife Phyllis and his family.

The flowers on the altar are sponsored by Amy Hanneman & Mary Jo Rajek.

Lenten Lunches and Dinners

We will have lunches after 10:30 AM Service and dinners from 4 PM to 6 PM every Wednesday! Come join us and make meal planning easy before or after the services.

Join us for "Places of the Passion:

- 03/22- Mid Week 4: Courtyard (10:30 & 6:30)
- 03/29- Mid Week 5: Pilate's Judgment Hall (10:30 & 6:30)
- 04/02 Palm Sunday: Bethphage (8:00; 10:30 & 6:00)
- 04/06 Maundy Thursday (1:00; 6:30 (8:00 First Communion Families only)
- 04/07 Good Friday: Golgotha (1:00 & 6:30)

- 04/09 Easter: The Empty Tomb (6:00; 7:30; 9:00; & 10:30)