

Fourth Sunday in

Lent

"Cross" Road

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

March 19, 2023 - 10:30AM

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!

PRE-SERVICE: **"At The Cross (Love Ran Red)"** (Praise Team)
 "King Of My Heart" (Instrumental)

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG **"Turn Your
Eyes Upon Jesus"**

Vs.1 *O soul my soul are you weary and troubled
No night so dark that our eyes cannot see
There's light so bright as we look to our Saviour
Life more abundant and free
Life more abundant and free*

Chorus *Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace*

Vs.2 *God our God You are with us in darkness
Your Word Your light is leading us on
Our hearts can hear You Heavenly Father
Calling us all to Your Son
Calling us all to Your Son*

Chorus
In the light of His glory and grace

Bridge *We turn our eyes to You
Beholding all Your beauty
You are holy (Sing 4x)*

Chorus (Sing 2X)
*In the light of His glory and grace
In the light of His glory and grace
We turn our eyes to You
We turn our eyes to You*

CONFESSION

People: Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we are sinful people. We have inherited the legacy of original sin from our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed You in Eden. We are by nature sinful and unclean. In our daily lives we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

Silence for self-reflection

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In our confession, we acknowledge all we have done wrong and admit before God and one another our deserving of eternal condemnation. But in the cross we acknowledge all that God has done right. Jesus' perfect life and His condemnation has fully atoned for all our sins. But more than that, on the cross both God and man acknowledge our forgiveness. This forgiveness is attested to by the empty grave. So, what I announce to you now is a fact secured by Jesus; that all of your sins have been forgiven. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

VERSE OF THE MONTH

People: “But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”
Isaiah 40:31

SONG

“At The Cross (Love Ran Red)”

Vs.1 *There's a place
Where mercy reigns and never dies
There's a place
Where streams of grace flow deep and wide
Where all the love I've ever found
Comes like a flood comes flowing down*

Vs.2 *There's a place
Where sin and shame are powerless
Where my heart
Has peace with God and forgiveness
Where all the love I've ever found
Comes like a flood comes flowing down
(Chorus)*

Chorus *At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red and my sin
washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You
(Jesus)*

Bridge *Here my hope is found
Here on holy ground
Here I bow down here I bow down
Here arms open wide
Here You saved my life
Here I bow down here I bow (down)*

(Chorus 2X)

Ending *I owe to You I owe all to You Jesus*

CCLI Song # 7017786, Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jonas Myrin | Matt Armstrong | Matt Redma, © Countless Wonder Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.), Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Songs (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.), Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Tunes (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)/Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Rising Springs Music (Admin. by Capitol

CMG Publishing), S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Said And Done Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Twelve Lions Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License # 188086

APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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.

FIRST 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND 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."

GOSPEL (Jesus heals a man who had been born blind)

John 9:1-41

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

People: **Glory 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."

CONNECT TIME & OFFERING SONG *"What A Beautiful Name"* (Instrumental)

During this time please use the attendance book or 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.

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY

"God Of All My Days"

Vs.1 *I came to You with my heart in pieces
And found the God with healing in His hands
I turned to You put ev'rything behind me
And found the God who makes all things new
I look to You drowning in my questions
And found the God who holds all wisdom
And I trusted You and stepped out on the ocean
You caught my hand among the waves
'Cause You're the God of all my days*

Chorus *Each step I take You make a way
And I will give You all my praise
My seasons change You stay the same
You're the God of all my days*

Vs.2 *I ran from You and wandered in the shadows
And found a God who relentlessly pursues
I hid from You haunted by my failure
And found the God whose grace still covers me
I fell on You when I was at my weakest*

*And found the God the lifter of my head
And I've worshipped You and felt You right beside me
You're the reason that I sing
'Cause You're the God of all my days
(Chorus)*

Bridge *In my worry God You are my stillness
In my searching God You are my answers
In my blindness God You are my vision
In my bondage God You are my freedom
In my weakness God You are my power
You're the reason that I sing
'Cause You're the God of all my days*

Chorus

Ending *In my blindness God You are my vision
In my bondage God You are my freedom all my days*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

CLOSING SONG "All The People Said Amen"

Vs.1 *You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need*

Chorus *And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen*

Vs.2 *If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all (Chorus)*

Bridge *Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people hungry for another start
For theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God*

(Chorus 2x)

Ending *And all the people said amen*

CCLI Song # 6518275, © 2013 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Valley Of Songs Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Trevor Morgan Music CCLI License # 188086

Today's Radio Broadcast is in loving memory of Fred Merkel by his wife Phyllis and his family.

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

WALK TO EASTER



Walk to Easter Event

Walk to Easter is our family friendly event that will be held at our church on **Saturday, April 1st from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.**

We look forward to welcoming families of our community to walk through and experience seven major events of the Bible and how they continue to apply to our lives today. While walking through the stations, children and family members will join in interactive activities while listening to our guides tell the story of the Bible that lead to Jesus' victory over death. At the end of the walk, children will take home a meaningful keepsake that will continue to remind them of the promise of the Resurrection.

Our event is aimed at families with children 10 and under, but all ages are welcome to attend. We will have snacks and refreshments to enjoy.

We look forward to sharing the message of the Gospel with you on April 1st!

Walk to Easter Volunteers

We need 40+ volunteers to make this event possible. If you are interested in volunteering for our Walk to Easter event, please sign up in the Narthex or online at trinitymerrill.com/Easter.



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)