

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**LEWISTOWN, MONTANA**  
March 22, 2020    Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Introduction to the day**

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

### Jesus Loves Me!

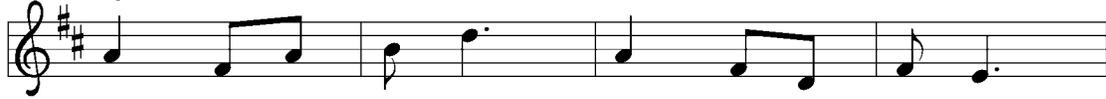


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

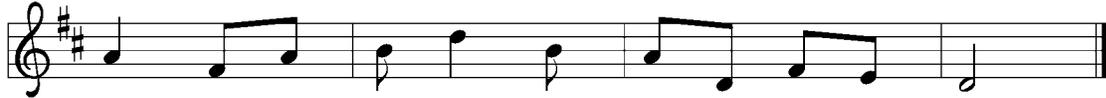


lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

#### *Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.  
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## 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.

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures**

**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I shall fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## SERMON

### 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 THE PEOPLE**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Silence for reflection*

O God, you hear us when we call to you.

We pray for your church, our pastors and teachers, and all who call upon your name. You have blessed us to be a blessing to the world. Make us bold to tell the stories of your love and to live as your light to the nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of all creation and all people. Guide leaders of nations and communities to serve with justice and inspire us to work for peace and equity in the places we live. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Send your healing to the sick and injured, your comfort to the dying and those who grieve, and strength to the weak. Send us out to serve as your presence to those in need of your care, especially...

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive the prayers of our children...

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer to you, O God, the prayers of your people, placed upon this wooden cross. Bring your blessing and power to these situations in need of your grace and love.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen**

## **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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

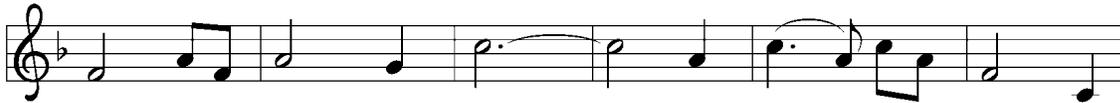
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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