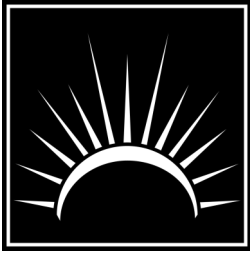




FOURTH
Sunday
IN
LENT

March 18, 19, and 20, 2023



The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1

Worship Information

Welcome to worship at Living Hope Lutheran Church.

If your child becomes restless while sitting with you during the service, we have a room to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need assistance.



WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

TODAY'S WORSHIP FOCUS

We know that unbelief will have consequences in the future—eternal separation from God. But unbelief also has consequences now. It makes you blind, in a sense. The unbeliever is unable to see the world as it really is. The unbeliever cannot see the danger that lurks behind temptation. He cannot see the blessing contained in God's Word. The unbeliever cannot see the tragic fate that lies in his future, and he certainly cannot see the Savior.

The Old Testament said that restoration of sight to the blind was one of the works of the Messiah. Jesus healed those who were physically blind. But even if our eyes work just fine, we still need Jesus to give us spiritual vision. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He provides sight for the spiritually blind.

OPENING HYMN

814 | *Just As I Am, without One Plea*

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY –Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.



The Invocation is based on the words used in Baptism. These words began or strengthened our relationship with Jesus, and serve as a reminder that our worship is based on his grace to us.



These words confess the reality of our sin and our sinfulness. They also confess the hope we have through faith in Jesus.

Jesus authorized us to speak these words of forgiveness on his behalf. Hear them as Jesus speaking to you!

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

507 | *Let All Things Now Living (Sat / 8:00)*



1 Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks-giv - ing
2 His law he en - forc - es; The stars in their cours - es



To God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
And sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine.



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
The deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us; His light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing.

A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,
 Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

WORSHIP TEAM | *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus (10:30)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED





God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness to light.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

"For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.
But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.
"Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?
You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen."
It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27B

Found in the Psalter books

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 3:16

**C: (sing) God so loved the world he fashioned
that his Son he freely gave,
that the one that trusts him solely
shall be raised up from the grave.**

(Tune: Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing)

PLEASE STAND



*Those who have
seen the light of
Christ strive to
leave deeds of
darkness behind.*



Jesus miraculously enabled a man who had been born blind to see the Christ both physically and spiritually

GOSPEL LESSON

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

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty.**

**From there 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.**

*This Creed is a
summary of the
Biblical truths of
what the Triune
God has done for
us. Speak the
words with
confidence
because based
on what God has
done for you, you
are blessed and
saved!*

PLEASE BE SEATED



HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ is the World's Light



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;
4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
Who else u - nites us, one with God the
He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
Give God the glo - ry, God with us, my



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

SERMON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Live in the Light

CREATE IN ME



Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



This song uses the words from Psalm 51. It is a powerful prayer that the Word of God that we have heard would take root in our hearts and lives.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER

Spoken by the Minister

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Spoken by the Minister

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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN

576 | *Amazing Grace (Sat / 8:00)*

Worship Team | *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) (10:30)*

Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer when they asked him to teach them to pray. To review the content of this prayer, Luther's Small Catechism is printed in our hymnal. The section on the Lord's Prayer begins on p. 289.

Before becoming a Christian, the author of this hymn was slave-trader. He wrote this hymn when he landed safely in Ireland after being caught in a ferocious storm at sea. He knew the power of God's grace!

PLEASE STAND

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, grant your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

904 vs. 1-3 | *O Christ, Our True and Only Light (Sat / 8:00)*

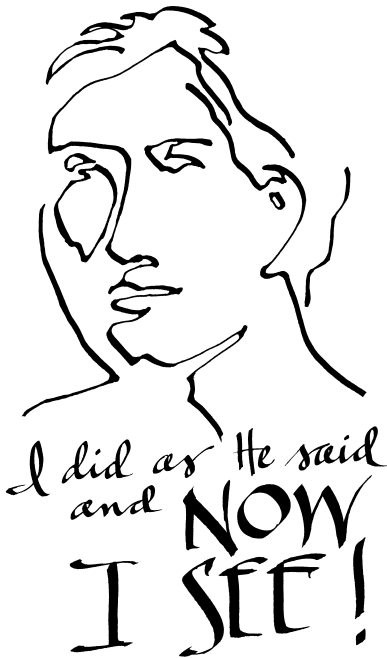
525 | *The Lamb (10:30)*



The Blessing is the Word of God—given by God for the Old Testament priests. The same God promises to bless you!



Please place your offering in the box in the back of church.



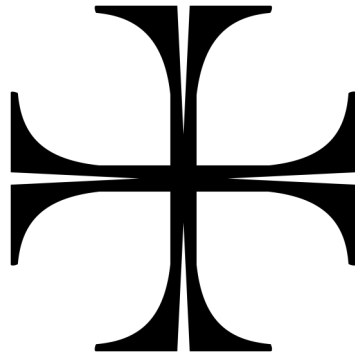
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING THIS WEEKEND

Presiding Minister	Pastor Benjamin Wessel
Preacher	Seminarian John Wenzel
Worship Accompanist	Debra Aufdemberge (Sat) Nancy Perez (8:00) Worship Team (10:30)
Saturday Usher	Jim Warras, Betty Warras, Steve Baker, Denyce Baker
8:00am Ushers	Joe Lucchesi, Jaccob Diaz Griffin, Corey Tulledge, Bill Hansen
10:30am Ushers	Andy Hein, Fred Klinger, David Hofer



LIVING HOPE

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