

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026

"Lord, Open Our Eyes"

THE OPENING HYMN #554 "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

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

P: Let us make a confession of our sins to our gracious Father in heaven.

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.**

(The extinguishing of the candle on the Lenten cross)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 5:8-14 (ESV)

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.

(please remain seated for the Verse and the reading of the Holy Gospel)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 157 in the hymnal)*

**Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 9:1-41 (ESV)

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

C: 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 spit 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.

(please stand)

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #849 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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THE SERMON "Lord, Open Our Eyes!" Text: John 9:1-41 (ESV)

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Let us pray to the Lord" "Lord have mercy.")

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE *John 20:19*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

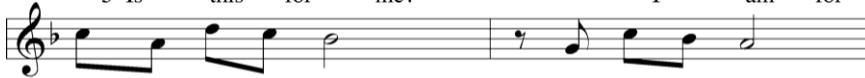
(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#629 "What Is This Bread?"



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of
live	and	He	should	die	Un - der	the
Word	and	prom - ise	clear,	In	mouth	and
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be - lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em - brace		Of	life	and	love	un - til	I	
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for - sak - en		
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru - ly	pres - ent	in	this		
That	I	re - ceive		His	ver - y	bod - y	and	His		



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

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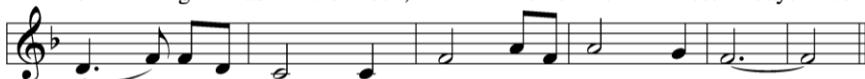
#744 "Amazing Grace"



1	A - maz - ing	grace—	how	sweet	the	sound—	That
2	The	Lord	has	prom - ised	good	to	me, His
3	Through	man - y	dan - gers,	toils,	and	snares	I
4	Yes,	when	this	flesh	and	heart	shall
5	When	we've	been	there	ten	thou - sand	years, Bright



saved	a	wretch	like	me!	I	once	was	lost	but
Word	my	hope	se - cures;		He	will	my	shield	and
have	al - read - y	come;			His	grace	has	brought	me
mor - tal	life	shall	cease,		A - maz - ing	grace	shall		
shin - ing	as	the	sun,		We've	no	less	days	to



now	am	found,	Was	blind	but	now	I	see!
por - tion	be	As	long	as	life	en - dures.		
safe	thus	far,	His	grace	will	lead	me	home.
then	pre - vail	In	heav - en's	joy	and	peace.		
sing	God's	praise	Than	when	we'd	first	be - gun.	

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#634 "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord"



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -
2 He blot - ted out with His own blood The judg - ment
3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a
4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this



brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort
that a - gainst us stood; For us He full a -
sol - emn guar - an - tee: In this His ho - ly
Sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,



in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
tone - ment made, And all our debt He ful - ly paid.
Sup - per here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
as He said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

**5 We dare not ask how this can be,
But simply hold the mystery
And trust this word where life begins:
"Given and shed for all your sins."**

**6 They who this word do not believe
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find—
May we this warning keep in mind!**

**7 But blest is each believing guest
Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain
With all who here His grace obtain.**

**8 Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive
Your Supper and in You find rest.
Amen! They who believe are blest.**

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, for strengthening our eyes of faith through this salutary gift. Help us to walk as children of light, with our eyes ever toward You in faith and toward one another with love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS