



OUR GREATEST NEEDS

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023 ✠ 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

WEBSITE
popslc.org



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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.
- * If you could use some hearing assistance, please ask the usher in the entryway, we have headsets available.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

OUR GREATEST NEED: SIGHT FOR THE BLIND

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. That which is harmful the unbeliever considers good; that which is good he considers meaningless. 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. In his ministry, 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." Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Jesus meets our greatest needs. He provides sight for the spiritually blind.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

∞ The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.
Hymns not printed in this service folder are found in the blue hymnals in each pew. ∞

Hymn | 537 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Invocation

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

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

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against You in my thoughts, words and actions.

I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve Your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with His innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in Him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

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

¹⁴"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.
¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
¹⁶I 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.
¹⁷But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸"Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
¹⁹Who 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?
²⁰You have seen many things, but you pay no
attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen."
²¹It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem The Power of the Cross *Some of our school students are here to sing this anthem.*

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

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

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything

exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 12:2

The congregation sings the refrains.



Refrain



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Refrain

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-17, 34-39

Jesus miraculously give sight to a man born blind. This lesson is the basis of the sermon this morning.

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in

the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and

washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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.” [...]

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day | 515 Christ Is the World’s Light

Sermon John 9 Sight for the Blind

Please stand

Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

Be seated.

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [*Special intercessions may be included here*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering



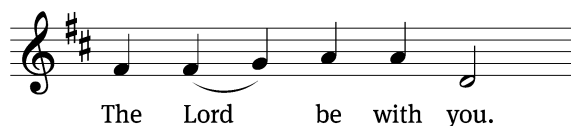
Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

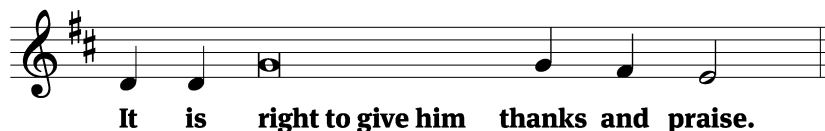
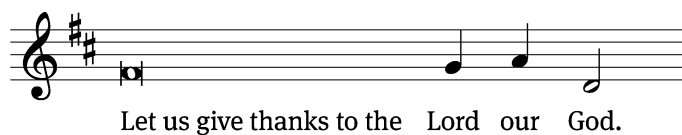
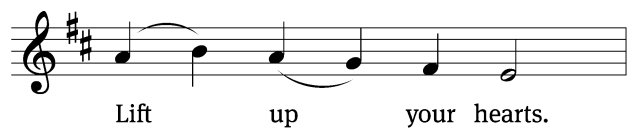
There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

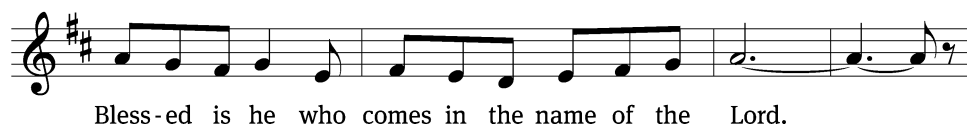


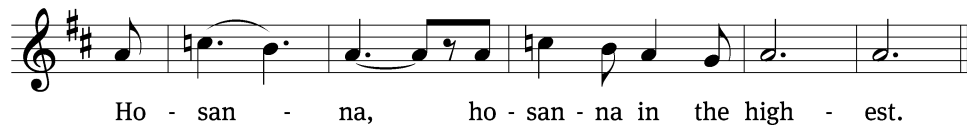


It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy





Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin. We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

The Words of Our Lord Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

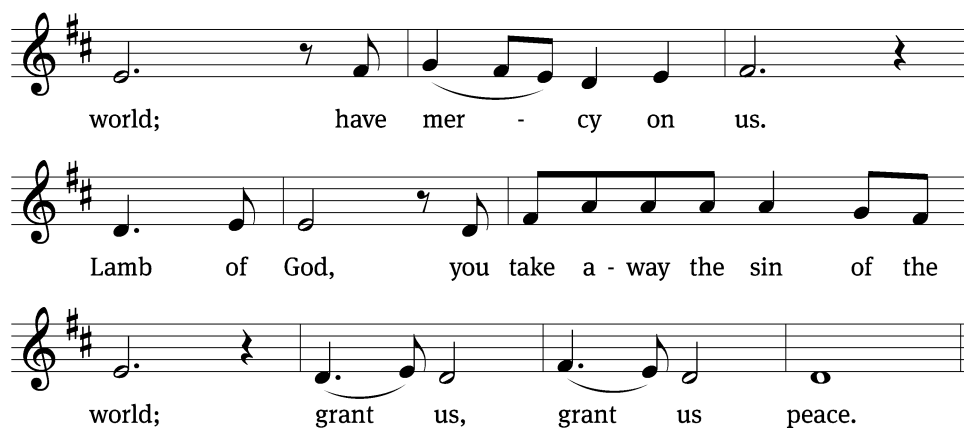
Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God





Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

Hymn | 707 Cling Tightly to the Word of God (soloist sings stanzas 1+2, cong joins for 3-6)

Hymn | 595 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Your ✝ sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn | 518 Christ Be My Leader



Thank you to Amy Sehloff and Mrs Lange and our school children for using their gifts to serve us and our Savior with music this morning!

Easter activities help needed - We're looking for candy donations to fill eggs for our Easter egg hunt. The donations are needed by next Sunday, March 26th.
We're also looking for help handing out Easter invitations in the neighborhoods near Prince of Peace next Sunday, March 26th. If you have questions or can help, please talk to Chandra Lange!

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|--|------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| <div>Our Week with the Lord</div> <div>Mar 19 - Mar 26</div> | Sunday: | Divine Service | 8:00 am |
| | | Family Bible Hour | 9:15 am |
| | | Divine Service | 10:15 am |
| | Tuesday: | Leadership Meeting | 6:00 pm |
| | Wednesday: | No activities on Wed during Lent | |
| | Thursday: | Meal before worship | |
| | | Midweek Lenten Service | 7:00 pm |
| | Sunday: | Divine Service | 8:00 am |
| | | Family Bible Hour | 9:15 am |
| | | Divine Service | 10:15 am |

Several years ago, I started to feel stuck as a therapist. I found many clients desired change, but instead, continually cycled through self-sabotaging behaviors or felt suffocated by shame.

“What is it?” They wondered to me aloud.

Don’t I want it enough? I not praying enough? Not enough faith?

I observed traditional talk therapy was helpful to an extent, but many people knew all about change and yet didn’t know how to experience it. I also discovered this was no different for Christians than it was for my non-Christian clients. In some instances, it even meant Christians were harsher toward themselves because they believed

they should be healed already.

Often, their self-critique was relentless.

After continuing in my own personal growth as a person and therapist, I began seeking additional training in trauma and body-centered perspectives. Here is what I found: People don’t actually want to be stuck!

(Surprising, I know.)

Instead, many folks are caught in the well-worn neural pathways of a brain and body that doesn’t know how to change. Often, people find themselves coping with situations the best way they know how.

Additionally, almost all of my clients were living with

what is called little ‘t’ traumas—disturbing events that don’t qualify as full-on PTSD—but still left their body and nervous system hijacked. This in turn also kept their body and mind responding in the same way, even when they wanted to change. I began to see that for most of my clients the stuck-ness was never about lack of effort—but the way they were trying.

As a therapist, I’ve found a holistic perspective of mind-body integration has allowed clients to move toward growth in a more sustainable way. Here are three ways you can integrate it with faith, too:

EMBRACE AN INCARNATIONAL LIFE

Jesus came to us in flesh and blood (John 1:14)—though He could have chosen any way He pleased. This reveals something important about God’s view of our bodies. It means they matter. It also tells us we don’t need to view them as simply shells for our spirits but instead as part of our essential humanity.

From this posture of understanding God doesn’t simply care about part of us, but all of us, we’re more likely to care for ourselves well, too.

In a sense, this work honors what it means to be human and the incarnational life we are called to in Christ. It is not just our spirits that experience God, but our bodies too. This mind-body perspective looks at more than a person’s logical and cognitive brain, and instead looks to integrate baseline functioning like breathing, safety and body posture.

All of these functions can be related to our nervous system, and when it becomes dysregulated, we can find ourselves knowing the right answer but unable to act on it. Practices like centering prayer, yoga and mindfulness help us to abide in our bodies and stay awake to an incarnational life.

LEAN ON YOUR RESOURCES

The Book of James tell us, “Every good and perfect gift comes from above” (1:17). From a neuroscience perspective, this includes parts of ourselves that have grown resilient and strong through experiential knowledge. This change can happen because of a phenomenon called brain plasticity, which essentially means our brains are capable of adapting.

Remember the time you stood up for yourself, even though your cheeks were burning and your heart pumped fast? Do you recall when you changed a tire on the side of the road as the rain poured? Or what about when you felt God’s presence with you as you wept?

Each of these experiences is now recorded in the neural pathways of our brain and body and can be accessed by recalling the memory. Psychiatrist Curt Thompson discusses the importance of “paying attention to what we’re paying attention to.” This means, as we notice, or give our attention to something, we have the ability to reflect and leverage our strengths for future situations too. Neuroplasticity becomes even more helpful to us as we notice it’s happening.

So, the next time you are facing something intimidating or scary, recall a time you did something that helped you feel capable or strong. Allow yourself to sense the depth of your breathing, the sensations in your body and remember God’s nearness with you. Consider what it felt like to be successful in that situation and give yourself permission to use that same experience to help you prepare. The experiential knowledge in our body gives us resilience and resources as we look to try new things.

REST IS PART OF THE PROGRAM

Good therapists and athletic coaches have at least one thing in common: They understand rest is essential to a healthy body and spirit. We can’t break down our muscles without letting them have time to build back up; otherwise they’ll deteriorate—it’s simple physiology. Jesus, too, modeled and encouraged rest. He often went away alone to pray or sleep (Luke 5:16; 8:23).

For many of us, we love the idea of rest. Hypothetically, we can see why it matters. We know God set aside a Sabbath on purpose and with our best in mind. But in reality, many of us frequently disregard what our bodies, minds and spirits tell us about how fragile we are. We push past bedtimes, ignore exhaustion and over-schedule ourselves. Which, if we’re honest, is incredibly easy to do in our over-stimulated culture.

And yet, if we were to give ourselves permission to actually listen to the limits of our body and the loving command of our God, we may find the wisdom of experiencing our fragility freeing. Indeed, we may find rest is more than a good idea.

Learning to cultivate a mind-body-spirit connection is vital to a Christian life. The next time you’re tempted to stay stuck in your brain, remember God created us to be fully alive.

“Three ways to grow spiritually that we don’t hear about enough” -Aundi Kolber relevantmagazine.com