

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD  
WE ARE CALLED TO SEEK,  
SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST



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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005  
5:30 P.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*The gospel for this Sunday is the story of a blind man healed by Christ. It is a profound image of our human condition: we seek after greater clarity and light. It is also a baptismal image of washing and receiving sight, of Christ's desire to enlighten us with the truth of who we are: God's beloved daughters and sons.*

**March 6, 2005**

**5:30 pm Worship**

### **Out of Sight**

Blindness and sight. Today's gospel is about a man born blind who is given sight, and about others, who, though they possess physical sight, are blind. There is more here than what meets the eye.

Why was this man born blind? Why is there suffering, illness, and disease in the world? The accepted wisdom of the day said it was because someone had sinned, either the man or his parents. If something bad happened, the reasoning went, it was surely deserved, brought upon oneself.

Jesus rejects this way of seeing things. Maybe some good can come from our blindness, our disabilities, our vulnerabilities. When we are most "out of sight," so to speak, the eyes of our hearts are most open to light and healing.

We are blind when we believe we alone hold the truth, or when we are unable to see someone else's point of view. We are blind when our convictions about life, love, politics, or the world are so rigid that what people see in us is arrogance, pride, and hypocrisy. We are blind when we close our eyes to the suffering and injustice in the world.

Jesus anoints the man's eyes and tells him to wash in the pool of Siloam, and he regains his sight. You can see how this became a story about baptism. Like the blind man, we wash in the healing and cleansing waters of baptism and our eyes are opened.

The early church called baptism "enlightenment" and "illumination." Through baptism we are invited on a vision quest. Faith teaches us to see in new ways. Jesus is the source of our vision, the light of the world. Can you see it? You are a child of God, beautiful in God's eyes. Sent from this place, you will be the light of God's eyes, light for the world.

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We encourage worshippers to read the introductions to the Readings of the Day in preparation for listening to the Word of God. Thank you.

\*\* Stand if you are able.

## PRELUDE

(trad. Irish hymn; arr. by Melody Bober)

### *Be Thou My Vision*

As Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man, may He also open our eyes,  
and may our hearts be opened to Him as we prepare for worship.

*“Be Thou our vision, O Lord of My Heart; thou my best thought by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping. Thy presence, my light.”* -- Mary Byrne

## WELCOME

Pastor Prochaska

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (spoken)

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the  
Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us return to our gracious and merciful God, confessing our need for healing.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Tender-hearted God,

**through the gift of baptism you give new birth to your children by water and  
the Spirit. Yet we question your wisdom for us, thirst for what can never  
satisfy, and wander in the ways of death. Turn us again, O God. Forgive us our  
sin, gather us into your embrace, and teach us the way that we should go.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God looks upon us with mercy and by water and the word joins us to the  
saving death of Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit God raises us with Christ to  
new life. 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

\*\* HYMN 499 LBW (green hymnal)

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

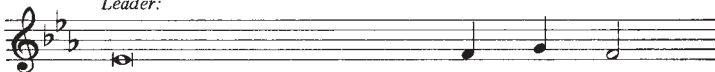
## HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Setting by Marty Haugen

### 1. SERVICE OF LIGHT

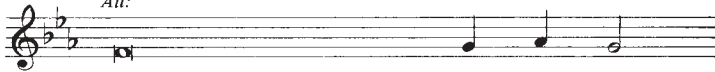
#### Procession

*Leader:*



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

*All:*



the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Leader:*

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

*All:*

and the day is al - most over.

*Leader:*

Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

*All:*

and shine within your peo-ple here. —

### Evening Hymn

*All: a tempo*

1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry

glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle

sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y

eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

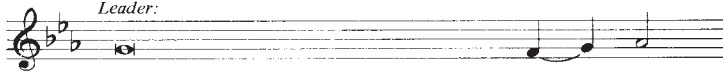


light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
 free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
 on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

**Evening Thanksgiving**



*Leader:* May God be with you all, and al - so with you;



*Leader:* Let us sing our thanks to — God,



*All:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**PRAYER (sung)**

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken)**

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

## PSALMODY (sung)

Psalm 141

*All:*

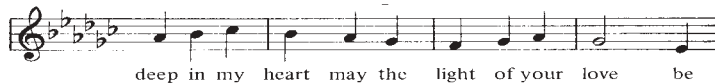
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -  
fore you, the lift - ing up of my  
hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

*Cantor and Congregation (Chancel choir sings echo):*

O God, I call to you, come to me  
now; O hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise  
up like in cense be - fore you, the  
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to




you. Keep watch with - in me, God;



deep in my heart may the light of your love be



burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise



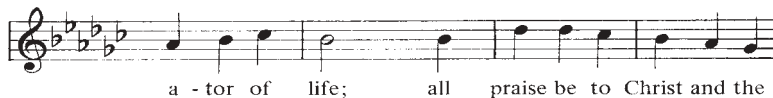
up like in - cense be - fore you, the



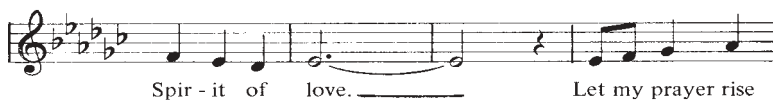
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to



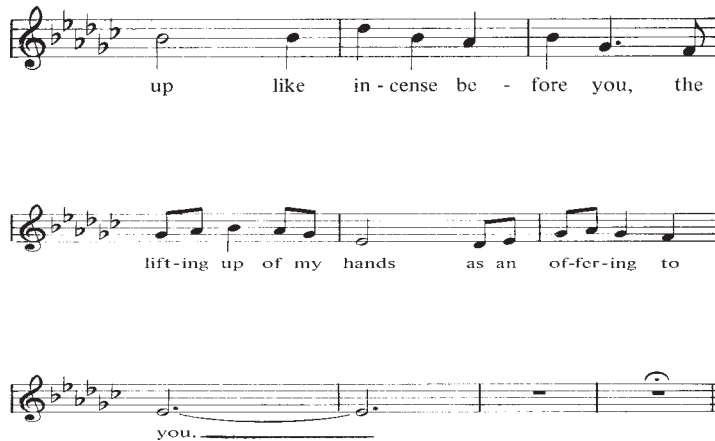
you. All praise to the God of all- Cre-



a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the



Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise



## FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The first reading is from 1 Samuel, chapter 16.

*In chapter 15, Saul's failings have finally caused the Lord to regret having made Saul king over Israel. Now, the Lord directs the prophet Samuel to find a replacement for Saul, who was made king by popular acclamation of the people. The new king, this time chosen by God, is a simple shepherd boy from Judah.*

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."<sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"<sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD."<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And

he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."<sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."<sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways for his 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 spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 5:8-14

**The Second Reading is from Ephesians, chapter 5.**

*The letter to the Ephesians teaches that through baptism Christians live in God's light. Therefore, we ought to live by doing those things that reflect the light of Christ.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you." (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(Haas)

Assistant: Return, return to the Lord your God.



**C** or **III** Re - turn, re - turn to the Lord, your God.

Assistant: Who is gracious and merciful, and slow to anger, abounding in love.  
Return, return to the Lord your God.



**C** or **III** Re - turn, re - turn to the Lord, your God.

**\*\* GOSPEL****John 9:1-41****The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.**

*Some people in Jesus' day regarded infirmities as signs of divine punishment, and a few even thought Jesus was wrong to help afflicted people. When Jesus is criticized for healing a man born blind, the question arises as to whether such attitudes are not themselves a form of blindness, thereby showing that the heart is far from God.*

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>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?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*\* HYMN 649 WOV (blue hymnal)

*I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light*

**SERMON**

Pastor Prochaska

\*\* HYMN 113 (purple songbook)

*Open Our Eyes Lord*

**\*\* THE PRAYERS** (spoken)

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.*

The Lenten journey leads us to repentance and new life. Let us turn our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

We pray: **Lord have mercy.**

Merciful and gracious God, hear our prayers, restore us to the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*\* PEACE** (sharing together the Peace of the Lord.)

**MEAL**

**OFFERTORY**

(Please place your offering in the offering basket located on the shelf in the Narthex. Thank you.)

**\*\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(Please gather around the Communion Rail with your bulletin and green hymnal.)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor Prays...

**\*\* LORD'S PRAYER** (spoken) (personal option - holding hands)

Let us pray.

**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.**

**HOLY COMMUNION - Receiving the Lord's Tangible Presence**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Communicant may say **Amen.**

**\*\* COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace. **Amen.**

**\*\* FINAL BLESSING (sung)**

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff is for the Leader, and the second staff is for the All group. The lyrics are: "Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you, May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days. A - men." The music is simple and melodic, with a final cadence on the word "men."

**BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\* HYMN 400 LBW** (green hymnal)

*God Whose Almighty Word*

**\*\* BLESSING**

Let us pray.

May God restore in you the joy of salvation, strengthen your love for your neighbor, and grant you to live in harmony with all creation; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**O LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Praise & Thanksgiving to God For  
The people and friends of Good Shepherd  
Cathy & Dan Smith, missionaries in Tanzania  
Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA, Chicago  
Bishop Callon W. Holloway Jr., Bishop Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA, Columbus  
Companion Synods: East of Lake Victoria Diocese, Tanzania, East Africa  
and Evangelical Church of Mecklenburg, Germany

**GOD'S PRESENCE & STRENGTH FOR**

Milan Filcik  
Hazel Reel  
Dick Caton  
Ruth Lackey  
Hannah Pressnell & Captive Free West Lakes Team  
Tami Miozzi  
Darren  
Lygia Harrison  
Roberta, friend of Bill Fahle  
Ferne Neeb, home from the health care center  
David Curry  
Mary Thieman  
Charlotte Nelson, who has cancer  
Christy  
Ann Mess – who had a heart attack, Bambi Higgins  
mother-in-law  
Jim Harrold  
Kim, a young mother, who has brain cancer  
Roberta

Nicholas Sauer  
Ron Hershey  
Tina, on a death in her family  
Tom, who has cancer  
Sally, in the Cleveland Clinic  
Maria, Michael, & Marisol  
Brenda  
The Bendig family  
Scott Stromhinger, recovering from surgery  
The Fitzpatrick children, on the death of their father  
For Kaye Griesheimer, who is moving home to Chandler,  
Arizona  
Sheila Stutrud, who has the flu  
The David Jennings family on the death of their son and  
parents in a tragic accident in California  
Chris Cilley, sister of Paula Bennett  
Wayne Day, uncle of Sylvia Bieller who died 2/23  
Naomi Oehrtman, who will have surgery March 7  
Barry

**March 6, 2005 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Prayers Received February 27, 2005 – The Third Sunday in Lent**

**Please take this home and use it daily to remember in prayer  
those who are near and dear to the Good Shepherd Community of Faith**

Please email Sheila or Jeff Stutrud with your prayer requests at [prayers@goodshepherdkettering.com](mailto:prayers@goodshepherdkettering.com)