

Petersburg Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the Alaska Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:00 am

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.

Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church
Our mission is “to Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,
and to Show the Love of Christ.”

We are glad you are here!

Prelude:

Sue Paulsen

We Prepare for Worship: Welcome and Greetings

Gathering Song:

“God, Whose Almighty Word” ELW#673

Confessions

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C Amen

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy † forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

C Amen

We Praise God

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast" ELW Setting Four pg 149

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C 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

Sit

God Speaks to Us

Children's Sermon

The First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.'" ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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.”¹² 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.”¹³ 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**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.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

The Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

A Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.
stand

The Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel

C Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God

¹As [Jesus] walked 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?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.” ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

²¹but 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.” ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So 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.”

²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He 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?”

²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P Here ends the Gospel

C Praise to you O Christ.

sit

Sermon Bev Siercks

Silence for Meditation

stand

Hymn Of the Day:

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW # 779

We Offer To God

Apostles’ Creed

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

C 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**

The Prayers of the Church

P Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

P Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially Joseph Tagaban, Christen Christensen, Stan Hjort, Pastor Laura Lynn, Bill and Annette Olson, Colleen Swanson, Jamie Eddy, Polly Koeneman, Sean and Pipa Larson and twins, Tom Greenley Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

(The offering is a part of our service when God's people respond to His goodness with gifts to support God's work in the world. Our offerings are gifts to help support ministries both locally and globally.)

Offering Song
"Bind Us Together" WOV# 748
stand

Refrain

**Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord;
Bind us together in love.**

**There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:**

Refrain

**You are the fam'ly of God. You are the promise
divine. You are God's chosen desire, you are the
glorious wine.**

Refrain

The Offering Prayer

P Let us Pray:

C **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

The Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying,

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

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**

sit

Distribution

(The celebration of the Lord's Supper is not limited to our members. The Lutheran belief is that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Come forward via the center aisle. Receive the bread and wine. Return to your seat via the side aisle. If you are unable to receive wheat, please ask for a gluten-free host. If you are unable to receive wine, please use the clear non-alcoholic grape juice in the center of the tray.)

“Lamb of God”



Blessing
stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P Let us pray: Embodied God,

C at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Benediction

P God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C Amen

sit

Announcements

stand

Sending Hymn:

“Be Thou My Vision” ELW#793

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Prayer Requests

Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!

2023 3% March-Glacier Bible Camp; Juneau, AK

The Southeast Cluster of the AK Synod hosts a church camp each summer. This funding helps to pay expenses which camper fees do not fully cover.

March Prayer Partners: First Lutheran Church, Ketchikan

Prayers for Church Council: Bev Siercks-President, Bill Moulton-Vice President, Ginger Evens-Secretary, Nancy Berg, Desi Burrell, Bridget Wittstock, Beau Ward, Susan Holmes, Marsha Birchell

Prayers for Health & Healing: Joseph Tagaban, Jaime Eddy, Christen Christensen, Stan Hjort, Pastor Laura Lynn, Bill and Annette Olson, Colleen Swanson, Polly Koeneman, Sean and Pippa Larson and twins, Tom Greenley.

Prayers for those Serving our Country

Alan McCay	USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson	US Marines, serving San Diego, CA
Michael Serafini	Serving in El Paso, Texas
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in Fairchild AFB, Spokane WA
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Serving in North Carolina
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
Jon Floyd	Serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Grayson	Serving in Maryland
Michael Gardner	Serving in Fort Meade, MD

This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 19th

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class

10:00 am ... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

2:00 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

Wednesday, March 22nd

10:00am-2:00pm Ruth Quilters Meet in the basement. Bring your own lunch

Thursday, March 23rd

5:45 pm Soup and Bread 6:15 pm Service in the HCH

Saturday, March 25th

4:00 pm Bible Study in Ed. Room

Wednesday, March 15th

10 am-2pm Rain Country Quilters meet in the Ed. Room

Saturday, March 25th

12:30-3:00 Girl Scout in the Ed. Room

March 26th Potluck Luncheon

Come one, come all to a potluck meet and greet for our new Pastors. Following Pastor Deborah and Pastor Tim's first service with us, there will be a potluck in the Holy Cross Hall so we can all get to know each other better. A veggie tray and cake will be provided by the church.

LENTEN SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL SERVICES AT PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thursday night Services: Soup and Bread, Meal at 5:45 pm, Service 6:15 pm.
Choir practice will be following the service at 6:45 pm

March 23, Bread of Life

March 30, Palms of Victory

Holy Week Services:

April 2, Palm Sunday, 10:00 am

April 6, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm

April 7, Community Good Friday, 7:00 pm

April 9, Community Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am

April 9, Community Bruch HCH 8:30am

Easter Service of Resurrection, 10:00 am

Good Beginnings registration

GB registration for 2023-2024 school year is now open. Please reach out to director Hayley Short by email at goodbeginningsspsg@gmail.com or leave a message at (907) 772-3044 to request an application. Prospective students must be three prior to September 1, 2023.



March 20th: Max Marohl

March 21st: Marj Oines

March 22nd: Wally Swanson, Karen Malcom

March 24th: Irene Roundtree

Your Offering

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page <https://www.petersburglutheran.com/giving>

Basement Sale April 22nd

Basement sale is coming up, April 22. Gently used items. Kitchen items, electronics, clothes, toys, plants, books, and more can be dropped off the week of the sale. Any volunteers to help move and organizes the week of the sale and or work the sale, would be greatly appreciated. Call Stacey Madsen with questions.

Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/PLC2018plus>
or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+.

Volunteers	Today: March 19 th	Next Week: Mar. 26 th
Musician	Sue Paulsen	Tamara Evens
Reader	Tamara Evens	Jennifer Bryner
Vocalist	Katey Gilpin	Katey Gilpin
Counter		
Coffee Crew	Last Name L-R	Last Name S-Z
Video		
Ushers	Kathy Emmenegger	Grant Trask
Altar Care	Sue Flint	Katey Gilpin

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Gospel Message

March 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

What? Or Why?

What do we believe? Our Lutheran heritage is rooted in theological debate, and such conversations have always been a part of our tradition. Disagreements about theological propositions and biblical interpretations have led to split after split among Lutheran church bodies and congregations. At the same time, our theological and biblical commitments have led us to seek the unity of the church with mergers among Lutheran denominations and with common communion agreements with our ecumenical neighbors. In our broader culture it also seems that theology often leads the way in conversations about faith. Theological principles from various religious communities are used to argue for or against laws, corporate practices, and cultural expectations.

In today's gospel story we find something different leading the way: the blind man's experience of the healing power of Jesus. This experience is at odds with the theological thought of the religious leaders. The narrative reads like a trial, one in which the primary witness is hostile to the line of questioning from the prosecution. The conversations the leaders have with the man and his parents are a mess of misunderstanding that leads to insult and accusation. They are talking about theology; he and his parents are talking about experience. No one is there to translate between the two.

Why do you believe? Our understandings of God are certainly shaped by the communities of which we have been a part and theologies we have learned. Yet, God's grace is not something we logic our way through; it is something we experience. The early church debated all sorts of theological positions, but their witness was grounded in their experience of death and resurrection. *What* we believe is important, but as we step into each day as witnesses of God's love for the world, *why* we believe may be the most hope-filled message we have to share.

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Lessons for Next Week, March 26th, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Petersburg Lutheran Church

Website www.petersburglutheran.com

Office: (907)-772-3144 Email: plcakoffice@gmail.com

petersburgpastors@gmail.com

406 Excel Street PO Box 709