



**...and try to discern what is pleasing
to the Lord. Ephesians 5:10**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023

11:00AM

Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover, NC

AS WE GATHER

Some of the central people in the Gospel narratives we get to know by name; others we do not. Although the man born blind is a major person in John 9, we never learn what his name might be. We meet his parents and his neighbors and we meet the Pharisees to whom he tells the story of the miraculous restoration of his sight. Although we do not learn his name, Jesus said of the man born blind that the works of God were displayed in him. As the One brightening our lives with the light of salvation, Jesus brings a new vision to our lives—an eternal vision of life with God that never ends. God knows our names. In His light we see light—and that is what matters!

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

OPENING HYMN “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken” 648

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and the Son **T** and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 119:33–35, 40–41

P Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

C Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.

P Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

C Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life! Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

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.

P God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray,

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

We sit.

ANTHEM

“Wonder-Beautiful”
“The Heart-Song of God”

Mark Burrows
Mark Burrows

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 42:14–21

L This is the Word of the Lord.

Pew Bible pg. 766

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 142

L I cry to You, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

C **With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.**

Men: I pour out my complaint before Him; I tell my trouble before Him.

Women: When my spirit faints within me, You know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

Men: Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

Women: I cry to You, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

Men: Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

Women: Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

L This is the Word of the Lord.

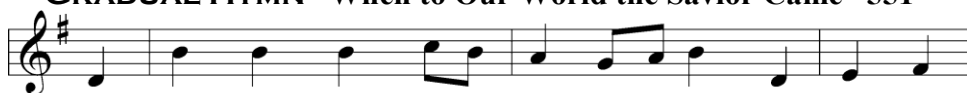
C Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 5:8–14

Pew Bible pg. 1244

We stand.

GRADUAL HYMN “When to Our World the Savior Came” 551



1 When to our world the Sav - ior came The sick and
2 That good phy - si - cian! Night and day The peo - ple
3 His prais - es then were heard and sung By o - pened
4 Of long a - go: yet liv - ing still, Who died for
5 His sov - 'reign pur - pose still re - mains Who rose in



help - less heard His name, And in their weak - ness
thronged a - bout His way; And won - der ran from
ears and loos - ened tongue, While light - ened eyes could
us on Cal - v'ry's hill; Who tri - umphed o - ver
pow'r, and lives and reigns; Till ev - 'ry tongue con -



longed to see The heal - ing Christ of Gal - i - lee.
soul to soul, “The touch of Christ has made us whole!”
see and know The heal - ing Christ of long a - go.
cross and grave, His heal - ing hands stretched forth to save.
fess His praise, The heal - ing Christ of all our days.

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HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1–7, 13-17, 34-39

Pew Bible pg. 1139

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After the Gospel is read:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace”

744

SERMON “You Can’t Please Everyone” Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

CREEDAL HYMN



1 In God we be - lieve: the Cre - a - tor whose pow'r

2 In Je - sus, the Sav - ior, our hope is se - cured.

3 God's Spir - it at work in our lives we con - fess;



In mer - cy has brought us for wor - ship this hour.

True God and true man once the cross He en - dured

With pow - er and truth the Church now He does bless.



He gra - cious - ly grants us our years and our days

To grant our lives whole - ness, for - give - ness of sin.

As saints, God's for - giv - en, one day we shall then



And bless - es with kind - ness our work and our ways.

With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace with - in.

Be liv - ing in glo - ry for - ev - er. A - men.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

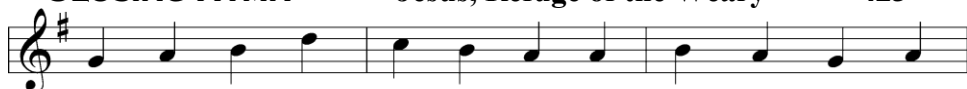
CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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POSTLUDE