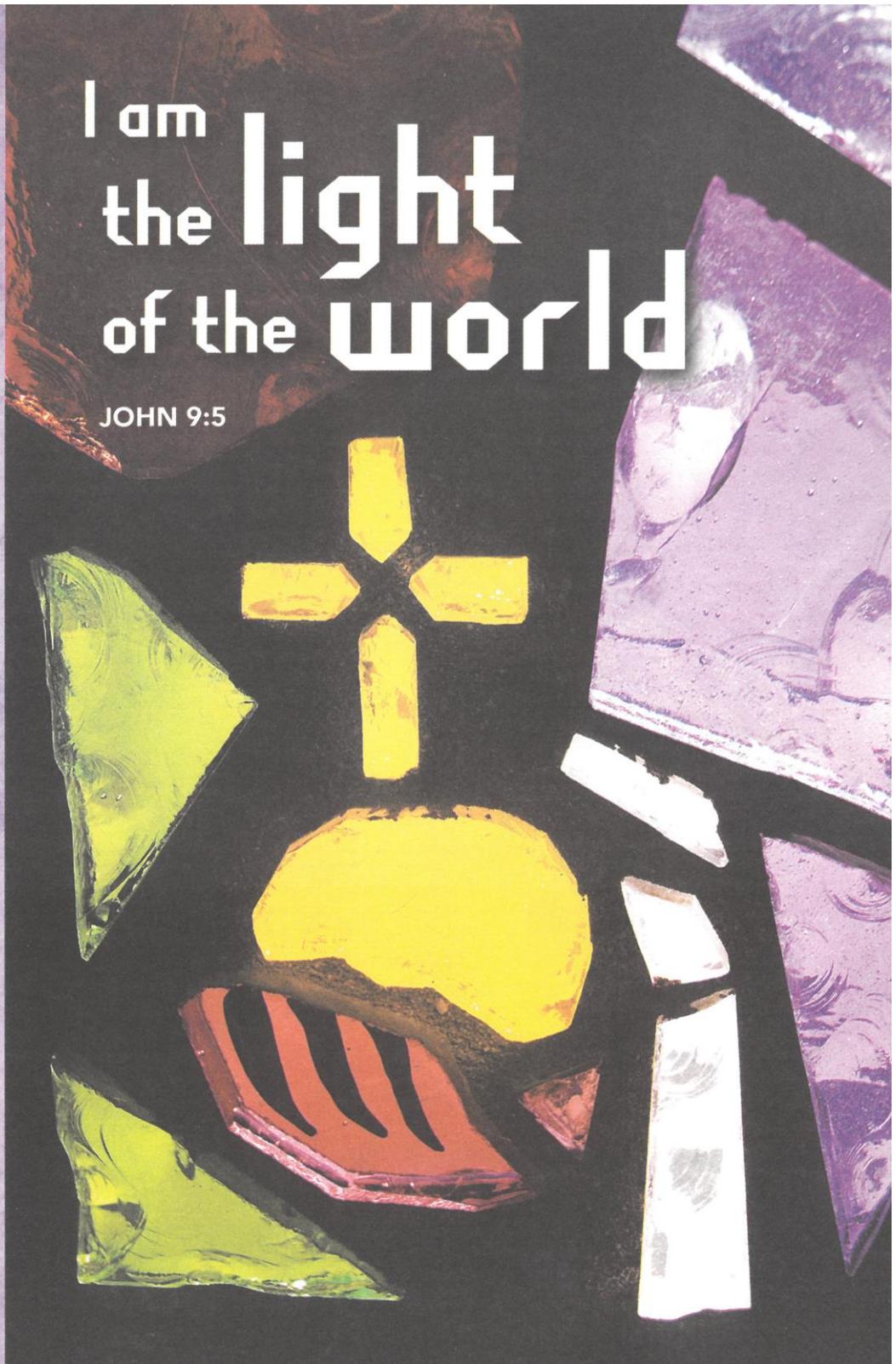
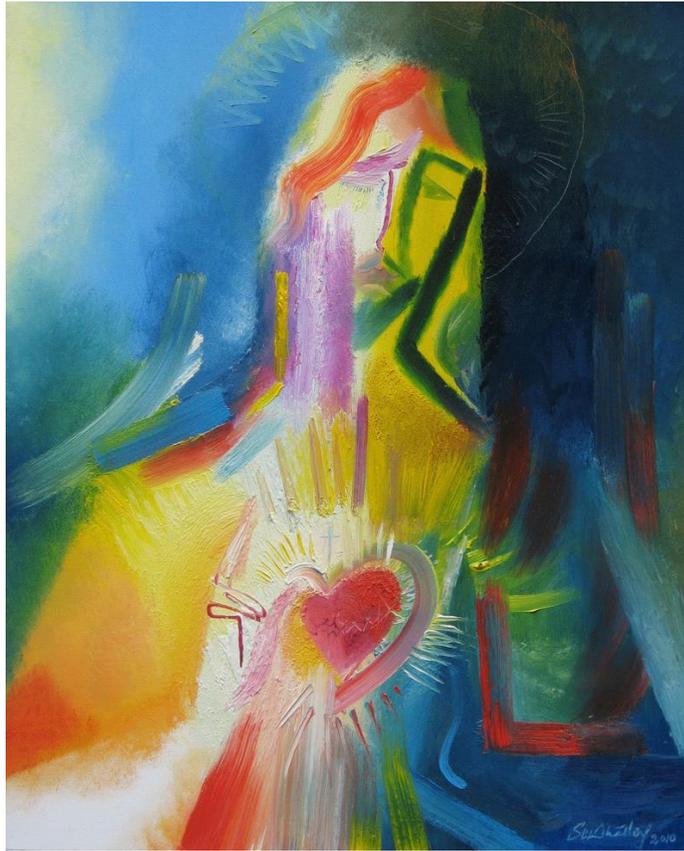


I am the light of the world

JOHN 9:5



Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Stephen B. Whatley. *The Sacred Heart of Jesus*. 2010

Welcome to St. Ansgar Lutheran Church! We are so very glad that God has brought you into our midst today for worship. You are welcome in the depth and breadth of your full identity, and all we ask is that you come as you are and take what will be helpful in your life and on your journey! Whatever season of your life you are in, wherever you might be on the path, however you find yourself at this moment in time, we are so thankful for your presence here today.

The community of St. Ansgar has made the commitment to be a safe place for all sexual orientations and gender identities. As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we affirm the following: that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God; that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making a common, public affirmation of faith; and that as members of this congregation, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation.

GATHERING

*Opportunities for participation with spoken responses are indicated by **bold text**.*

Welcome

St. Ansgar Member and Council Vice President Becky Burns offers words of greeting for today's recording.

Prelude #3 from *Three Liturgical Improvisations* George Oldroyd (1887-1956)

Pour light upon us from above, And fire our hearts with they strong love.

Praise to the Father and the Son, Through all the ages as they run;

And to the holy Paraclete Be praise with them and worship meet. Amen.

* Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

"I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,

who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

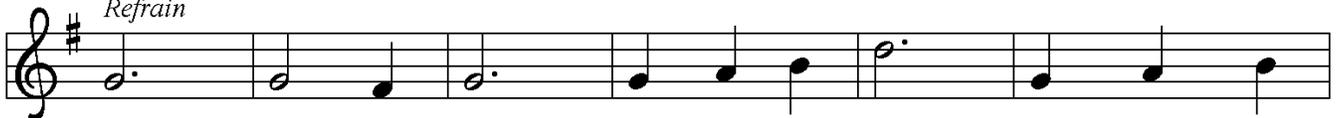


truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

WORD

Our Lector in the field today, Jen Boggs, offers a reading & reflections from scripture.

Reading from the Second Testament - Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out 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 mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

Gospel – John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed 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.’ 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, saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?’ Some were saying, ‘It is he.’ Others were saying, ‘No, but it is someone like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ But they kept asking him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ 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.’ 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. 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.' 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. 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.'

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 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.' 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. Therefore, his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

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.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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?' Then 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, 'Here is an astonishing 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 he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Conversation about the Good News

Pr. Christophor and this week's Assisting minister, Member Heather Klein, will talk about our story today of the healing of the blind man.

The Prayers of Intercession

*The assembly response after each petition is **Your mercy is great.***

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

setting, Wilbur Held
(1914-2015)

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton (1725-1807), alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: William Walker (1809-1875). SOUTHERN HARMONY.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Take a moment to pause the recording and offer peace to those you are gathered with. If you are listening to this recording by yourself, reach out to someone on the phone or via social media and share the peace.

THANKSGIVING

Offering

During this time when we are apart from in-person worship, we encourage you to continue in your offerings to St. Ansgar. You can mail checks to the church or you can give online: <http://saintansgar.org/give>. Thank you for continuing to steward our work as a community of faith through your radical generosity!

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray. O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you
illumine our way through life
with the words of your Son.

Give us the light we need,
awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end

bring all the world to your feast;

through Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord,

to whom, with you

and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

SENDING

As our worship concludes for today, receive these words of comfort from the 23rd Psalm.

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
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.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Blessing

Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God

Postlude

What God Ordains is Good Indeed

Text: Samuel Rodigast (1649-1708)

Music: Severus Gastorius (1646-1682)

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister

Pr. Christophor Gilbert

Assisting Minister

Heather Klein

Musician

Jan Peyton Rowley

Greeter

Becky Burns

Lector

Jen Boggs

ST. ANSGAR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Est. 1954)

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

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