



# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

*Spirit-Led, Community-Driven*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in LENT

10:30 AM CST Contemporary Worship

Sunday, March 19, 2023

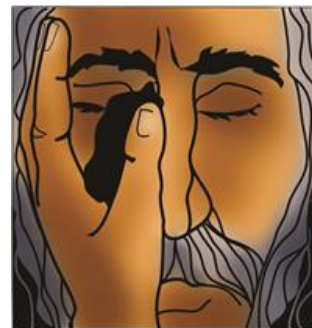
With Holy Communion

*Prayers Requests*

*Please Text-in-Church 314.329.0487*

*or Email Carrie at [Office@holycrosselca.com](mailto:Office@holycrosselca.com)*

*Lifted during Prayer Time*



## GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

**Meditation Music** *Marvelous Light* CCLI Song # 4491002 CCLI License # 1787498

Chorus	Pre-Chorus	Bridge
Into marvelous light I'm running Out of darkness out of shame Through the cross You are the truth You are the life You are the way <b>Verse 1</b> I once was fatherless A stranger with no hope Your kindness awakened me Wakened me from my sleep now Your love it beckons deeply A call to come and die By grace now I will come And take this life take Your life	Sin has lost its power Death has lost its sting From the grave You've risen Victoriously <b>Verse 2</b> My dead heart now is beating My deepest stains now clean Your breath fills up my lungs Now I'm free now I'm free My dead heart now is beating My deepest stains now clean Your breath fills up my lungs Now I'm free now I'm free Spoken Words There's no more shame No more shame And now we show the world Christ in you	Lift my hands and spin around See the light that I have found Oh the marvelous light marvelous light (It's Christ in you)

**WELCOME** *by Worship Asst.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AND TODAY'S THEME *by Pastor*

The Paradox we will consider is one fundamental to our being! Denial / Affirmation! And the difference may be hanging in the balance of our Spiritual seeing! How can we know God MORE with our spiritual eyes?

### GREETING OF EACH OTHER *(Sharing a Sign of God's Peace with Each Other)*

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**PRAYER —...** *Pastor prays in the moment what the Spirit puts on her heart...*

Lord Christ, and come among us... By your gracious life and death for us, bring light...anoint us with your Spirit. God, You so loved the world You gave your only Son, we love your promise... so that all may receive life & God embraces you with mercy, ✝ forgiveness, and revives you in the Spirit's power.... **Amen.**

**PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE** Led by the Worship Asst.

**We pray for all of those on our prayer list...**

**Keith DeCamp,**

**Adam Jackson,**

**Leah Leimbach,**

**Preben Christensen,**

**Sionie Elavsky,**

**Lois Ristau,**

**Ginger Prellwitz,**

**Frank Barnhart,**

**Marion Sims** (Justin Sims father and the father in-law of Melissa Sims),

**Renate Hawn** (pain management for arthritis),

**Eric Krause** (speedy recovery after second hip replacement surgery on 2/28/23, Heidi Rechek's father),

**Janet Marshall** (upcoming surgery),

**Diana** (kidney dialysis),

**The people of Ukraine & Russia and all those affected by war,**

**REMEMBERING THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO LOST LOVED ONES...**

**The family of Scotty Larsen** (passed away, Monday, March 6th)

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD** God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

**READING** **EPHESIANS 5: 8 – 14** *Read by Worship Asst.*

*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.*

<sup>8</sup>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.”

**Gospel John 9: 1- 41     *Read by Pastor***

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

<sup>1</sup>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.”

The gospel of the Lord.     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE - Human Experience & God Experience: *Denial and Affirmation***

**Beginning with Kids' Message**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**SONG AFTER MESSAGE** *Miracles* CCLI Song # 7054541 CCLI License # 1787498

<b>Verse 1</b> The One who made the blind to see Is moving here in front of me Moving here in front of me The One who made the deaf to hear Is silencing my ev'ry fear Silencing my ev'ry fear <b>Chorus</b> I believe in You I believe in You You're the God of miracles I believe in You I believe in You You're the God of miracles	<b>Verse 2</b> The One who does impossible Is reaching out to make me whole Reaching out to make me whole The One who put death in its place His life is flowing through my veins His life is flowing through my veins <b>Bridge</b> The God who was and is to come The power of the Risen One The God who brings the dead to life You're the God of miracles You're the God of miracles
---	--

**MEAL** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

**OFFERING** *Please offer to Holy Cross what you desire to give to God for ministries of Holy Cross!*  
(JUST DROP IN THE BASKET / PLATE AS IT IS PASSED.)

- *E-giving through Vanco online*
- *Send your check directly to Holy Cross at 13014 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur, MO 63141*
- *Go to our Website & hit "DONATE NOW" <http://www.holycrosselca.com/site/cs/links.asp>*

*The presiding minister instructs those communing at home to gather their bread / cracker / wine/ grape juice elements to hold up during the Words of Institution*

**OFFERTORY** *Instrumental*

**OFFERING PRAYER** *Led by Worship Asst.*

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.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

*[Please lift up your Elements when Communing at Home or with Fellowship Cups]*

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.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for Home Communion.*

**COMMUNION** *When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* Amen. *The ministers commune after others commune.*

**COMMUNION SONG** *Open The Eyes of My Heart* CCLI Song # 2298355 CCLI License # 1787498

<b>Chorus</b> Open the eyes of my heart Lord Open the eyes of my heart I want to see You I want to see You	<b>Bridge</b> Holy holy holy Holy holy holy Holy holy holy I want to see You
<b>Verse</b> To see You high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy	

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *The assisting minister leads...*

Embodied God, 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.**

**SENDING****God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world****BLESSING** *Pastor offers*

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

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Serve in Love. **Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING SONG** *Let It Rise* CCLI Song # 2240585 CCLI License # 1787498

<b>Verse 1</b> Let the glory of the Lord Rise among us Let the glory of the Lord Rise among us Let the praises of the King Rise among us Let it rise <b>Verse 2</b> Let the songs of the Lord Rise among us Let the songs of the Lord Rise among us Let the joy of the King Rise among us let it rise	<b>Chorus</b> O let it rise O let it rise <b>Repeat Verse 1</b> <b>Repeat Chorus</b> <b>Repeat Verse 1</b> <b>Repeat Chorus</b>
---	---

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-733788A.

**WE ARE GRATEFUL!**

**Worship Assistants:** Mike Prange / Bud Niebling

**Singer:** Megan Tyahla

**Organist & Choir Director:** Jack Hamill

**Praise Band:** Praise Band: Dave Reinking, Brandon Clay, Marty Little, Jason Cooper, and Matt Davis

**A/V Team:** Philip Paul & Dave Ristau, Donovan Lucas & Marcus Benson, Teagan McCracken