

March 19, 2023 | 11:00am



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Morning Song

18865 SW Johnson St. | Aloha, OR 97003 | 503-649-3380 | www.BLCFAMILY.org

MORNING SONG WORSHIP

-ORDER OF SERVICE-

Welcome & Invitation to Worship

Jesus

There is a truth older than the ages.
There is a promise of things yet to come.
There is One born for our salvation:
Jesus.
There is a light that overwhelms the darkness.
There is a kingdom that forever reigns.
There is freedom from the chains that bind us:
Jesus.
Jesus.

Chorus: Who walks on the waters,
Who speaks to the sea,
Who stands in the fire beside me.
He roars like a lion.
He bled as the Lamb.
He carries my healing in His hands;
Jesus.

There is a name I call in times of trouble.
There is a song that comforts in the night.
There is a voice that calms the storm that rages:
He is Jesus, Jesus. **(chorus)**

Messiah, my Savior,
There is power in Your name.
You're my rock and my Redeemer;
There is power in Your name,
In Your name.

You walk on the waters,
You speak to the sea,
You stand in the fire beside me.
You roar like a lion.
You bled as the Lamb.
You carry my healing in Your hands; **(repeat)**

Jesus. There is no one like You.
Jesus. There is no one like You.

The Love of Jesus

Alive in the beginning, awakened from the start,
It was always there. Falling from the heavens,
Flowing from Your heart, it was always there.

Chorus Oh, the love of Jesus, boundless and free.
Oh, the love of Jesus, poured over me.
How it's captured my soul. How sweet just to know,
Oh, the love of Jesus is all I'll ever need.

Faithful as the morning, constant 'til the end,
You are always there. You lead me like a father,
And comfort like a friend, You are always there. **(chorus)**

I'll never be the same since You changed my heart.
I'll never be the same 'cause I know who You are. **(repeat) (chorus)**

Oh, the love of Jesus, is all I'll ever need.
Oh, the love of Jesus, is all I'll ever need.

Confession & Absolution

P: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

C: Return to the Lord Your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Joel 2:13

P: Today God calls us to confess our sins of willful blindness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: God of Light,

C: We are born in sin and darkness, separated from You. We are blind to Your Word and Your work, often choosing to see only what pleases us and fulfills our desires. Although You have called us to be children of light, we are quick to go back to the path of darkness, sinning against You in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of Jesus, the Light of the World, we come before You, seeking Your forgiveness and mercy.

P: The Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for you, has shone His light in your life, dispelling the darkness. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ, I announce the good news to you: your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, because You know that we of ourselves have no strength to obey Your commands, that we walk as the blind if You do not guide, that we are in darkness if You do not give us light,

C: Keep our hearts and minds from all evil thoughts, our tongues from evil words, our hands and feet from evil actions, and defend our bodies from all harm and danger, that we may serve You in faith and walk as children of light. We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Song of Response

Fount of Blessing (arr. Pavone)

Adult Choir

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame,

who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."

¹⁸ Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?

Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Kids' Talk

Eric Oswald, DCE

Message

Listening to the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)

Pastor Jeff Shearier

Offering

Bringing tithes and financial gifts to the Lord is an act of worship. These offerings help to accomplish ministry both here at Bethlehem and around the world. May God bless your response of faith.

Please join our members in signing the red friendship register.

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Chorus: My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns.
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. **(chorus 2 times)**

The Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with his favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Praise

Jesus Lead On

This is my cry, this is my song.
You are my guiding light when the way is unknown.
And when these sunny skies turn shades of gray,
I'll stay close by Your side as You lead the way.

Chorus: Jesus lead on, I will follow.
Jesus lead on, let Your love light the way.
Jesus lead on, I will follow. Jesus lead on.

Hear now this cry, hear now this song.
You are the guiding light for this journey I'm on.
And when my vision is clouded by the wind and the rain,
I'll stay close by Your side as You lead the way. (chorus 2 times)

Announcements

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

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