

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)

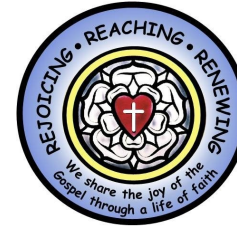
The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



S R E X T B S D W O R L D W T
 R B P N H D E I A M B I R T H
 I P R C E V R W G V X V S O L
 L O P N I T D B R H V L R D Q
 B K N E H U P O O L T I G E U
 E I C G B A K M V X P G M L Z
 S E I S L F A E P K A H W H E
 R N I G I Q I O W A R T Y M V
 F C Q D N D H Z S X E O O L P
 X O U H D D G T I A N H T T K
 L M P Z E Q K R L E T C R G C
 P I W E W A S H O Z S S P I T
 C C F E N W K J A U Q R O R Y
 P Q D E U E K E M Q N B S H O
 T N E Y E S D S E L A D M Z Z

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| BLIND | EYES | SPIT | POOL | WASH |
| WORLD | SINNED | SIGHT | NIGHT | BORN |
| HOME | MUD | LIFE | OPENED | LIGHT |
| SILOAM | PARENTS | RECEIVED | BIRTH | GROUND |

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 11am-4pm; Fri: 9am-Noon, 1-4pm

March 12, 2023 + Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this service, we witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all. We were blind but now we see.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



The Third Sunday in Lent: The Blind Man

✠ SENDING ✠

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the sojourners;

He upholds the widow and the fatherless,
But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Jesus showed grace to the blind man and restored his sight.
Trusting in God's compassion and saving love,
let us confess our sins and ask God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Almighty God,
**although we claim to see and know so much,
all too often we are lost in the blindness of our sins.
We follow tempting pathways
instead of walking in your commandments.
We act according to our own desires
instead of obeying the guidance of your holy Word.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Open our eyes so that, by faith,
we will see the wonders of your love and grace.**

Announcements

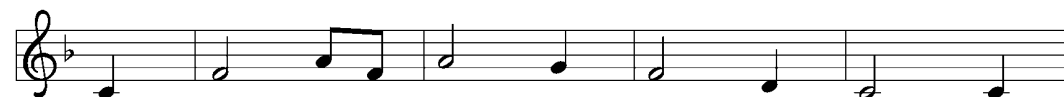
Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and show you His compassionate love and amazing grace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Amazing Grace

#779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

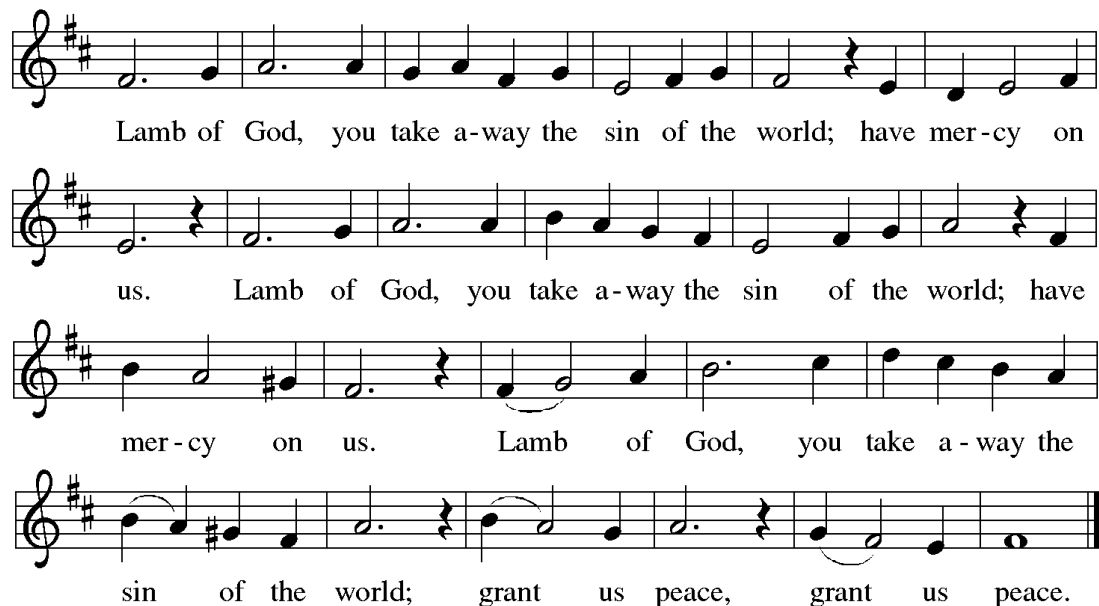
Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.
Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei **Lamb of God** *ELW setting 4*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution with silence for reflection

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Embodied God,

at your table we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

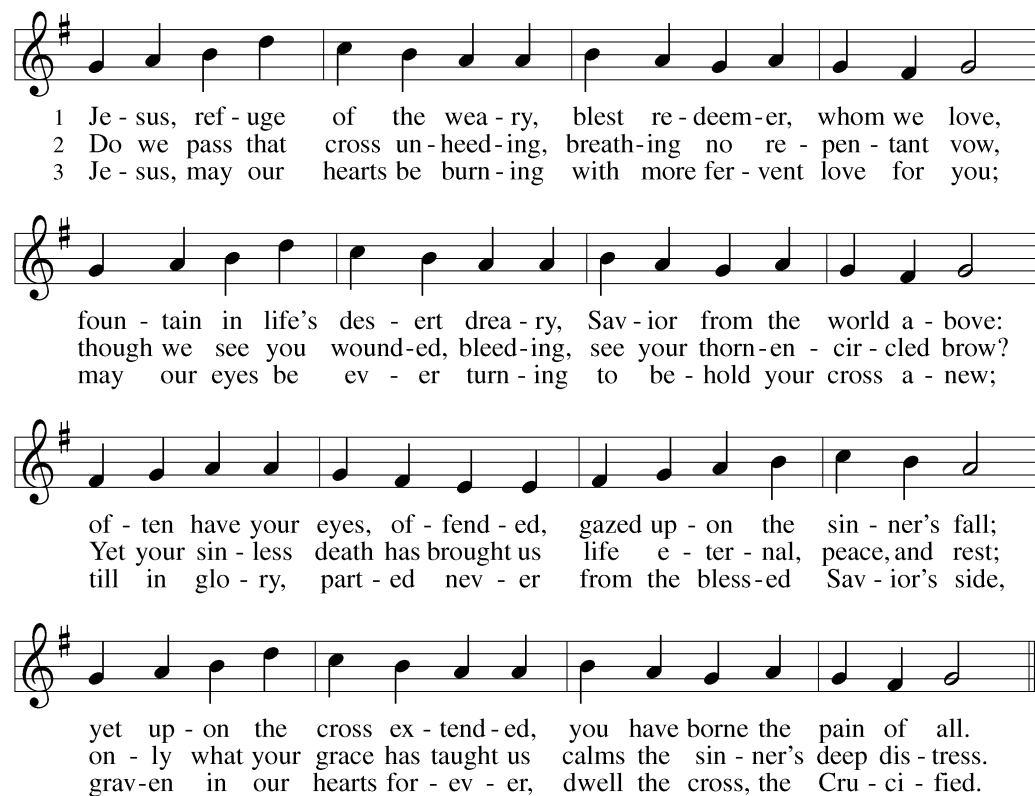
**With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior.

The Lord and Messiah, who opened the eyes of the blind,
came to lay down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn **Jesus, Refuge of the Weary** LBW #93



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest re - deem - er, whom we love,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re - pen - tant vow,
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent love for you;
foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior from the world a - bove:
though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?
may our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be - hold your cross a - new;
of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall;
Yet your sin - less death has brought us life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;
till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,
yet up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, you have borne the pain of all.
on - ly what your grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

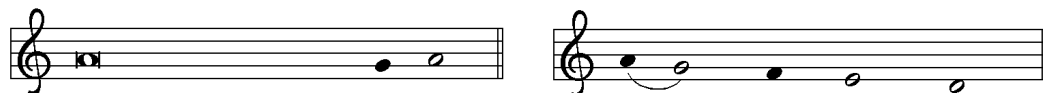
Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-1498; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-1896, alt.
Music: Hernhut, c. 1735
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Apostolic Greeting


The grace of Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie


ELW Setting 4



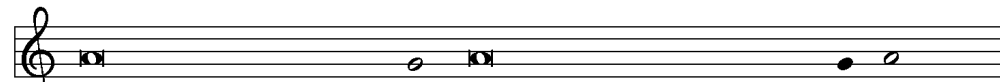
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



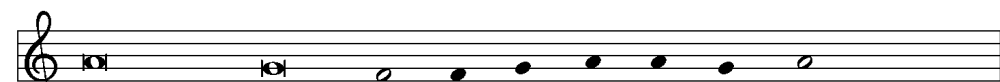
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



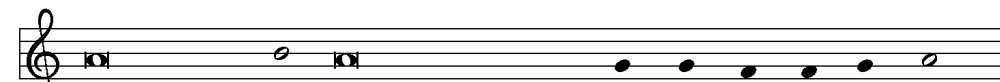
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



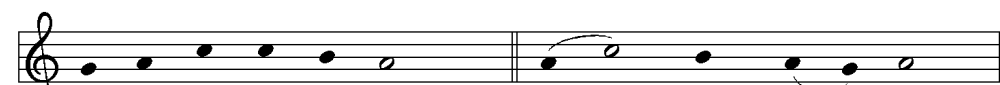
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Again, after supper, Jesus 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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,

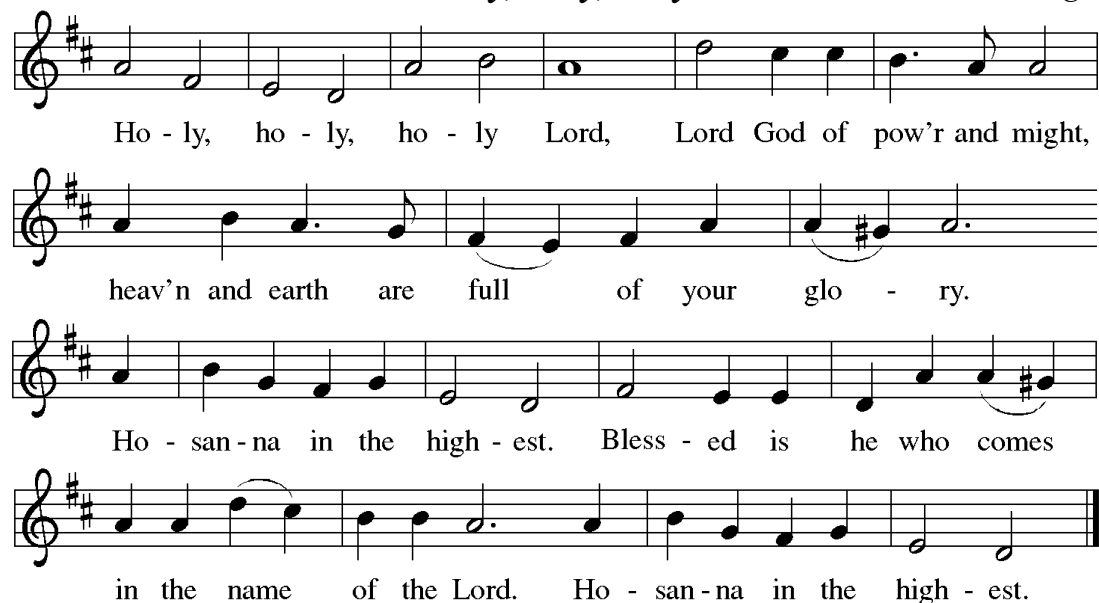
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 4



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

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.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Almighty God,

we pray that by your Spirit

you would grant us the clear sight of faith

to see the wonders of your love and power in our lives.

Through Jesus' redeeming death,

we have forgiveness and eternal life.

As the blind man told others

about the miracle that had been accomplished in his life,

help us to witness boldly to your amazing grace

and tell others of the hope and peace

that can be theirs through faith in Jesus.

As the man who was healed worshiped Jesus,

we too worship Jesus as our Messiah and Lord.

Hear our prayer and accept our praise in his holy name. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:4-10

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-9

A reading from Second Corinthians.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lenten Verse

ELW, setting 4

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 9:1-7, 24-38

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As he 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

name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the
pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ MEAL ✠

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.



Holy Communion

Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Lead us to serve them as we offer help to them in their need.
Help them to see clearly the hope and encouragement
found in the promises of your Word.

Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, we pray for the nations of the world.
Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors.
Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender,
race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed.
Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, we give thanks for the lives of all your saints.
Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service.
Encourage us with the hope they shared in you.
Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear 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. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

What Shall I Render

LBW setting 2



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me?



I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the

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. 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.

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

Children's Time

Sermon

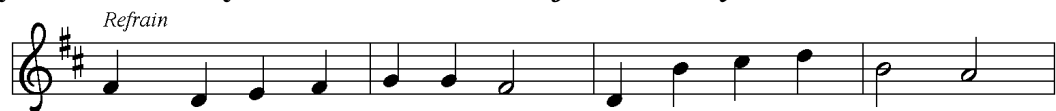
Grace for the Blind

I was blind, now I see."

Hymn of the Day

Healer of Our Every Ill

#612



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Apostle's Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

A Almighty God, during his earthly ministry, your Son,
our Lord Jesus, healed the sick and restored sight to the blind.
He fulfilled all that the Scriptures had foretold of the Messiah.
His healing miracles proved him
to be the Son of God and the promised Messiah.
We give you thanks and praise for your saving work
through Jesus our Savior.
Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit,
give us eyes of faith to see the miracles that you have done
and continue to do in our lives,
especially the miracle of our salvation in Jesus.
Help us to see clearly your truth and to grow in grace
as we see Jesus revealed in your holy Word.
Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, the man whose sight was restored
worshiped Jesus as Messiah and Lord.
Give us the clear sight of faith so that we too
will faithfully worship Jesus as our Savior and King.
Gracious Lord, **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, we pray for those
who are suffering through illness, fear and grief, especially...
According to your will, bring them comfort and healing.