

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

22 March 2020

GATHERING

- * **OPENING HYMN** **“God, Whose Almighty Word”** **ELW 673** (*red book*)
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| <p>1. God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.</p> <p>2. Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.</p> | <p>3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water’s face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth’s darkest place
let there be light.</p> <p>4. Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean’s tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light. © Public domain.</p> |
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* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

People: **And also with you.**

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* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death, illumine our path and give us your Spirit; for you are Lord, now and forever. Amen**

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WORD

SOLO

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

James Bash, soloist

* THE GOSPEL

“A Man Born Blind”

John 9:1-41

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

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MEDITATION

Pastor Aaron Couch

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715 (red book)

1. Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth,
we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.

2. Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope,
many despair.
Your word alone
has pow’r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain:

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.**

Refrain

5. Many the gifts,
many the people,
many the hearts that
yearn to belong.
let us be servants
to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.

Refrain

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* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we seek in this Lenten time to grow in our faith, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O merciful God, and lead us in your way of life.

People: Amen

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

READ

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

SENDING

* **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May Almighty God, Creator, Savior  and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: Amen

* **CLOSING HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843 (red book)**

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| 1. Praise the One
who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One
who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One
who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms
and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace. | 2. Praise the One
who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One
who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword. | Praise the One
who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Praise the one
true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and
rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing
for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one
redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one. |
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* **SENDING**

Assistant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.