

Prelude: "Great is thy Faithfulness" William Runyan arr. by M. Sherrill Kelsey

Molly Wheeler

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Joel Westby

Confession & 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.

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 and says: "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live." 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.**

Gathering Hymn: "**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**"

ELW # 843

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel healing every dread disease.  
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**

**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 every land.**

**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.**

Greeting

Kyrie: "Lord, Have Mercy"

ELW, p. 203

**Have Mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.  
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

## Prayer of the Day

**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.**

## Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## Gospel Acclamation: "We Are Turning, Lord to Hear You"

ELW, p. 205

**We are turning Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind  
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

## Gospel: John 9:1-41

<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."

Sermon: "A Disobedient God "

Pastor Beth Brashear

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

ELW # 779

**Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found T'was blind but now I see**

**T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear And Grace, my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed**

**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 first begun.**

Prayers of the People: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

ELW # 752

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

Opportunity for Connection and Service

Sending Song: **"Lead Me, Guide Me"**

ELW # 768

Refrain

**Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

Verse 1

**I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r  
To help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.  
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. (Refrain)**

Verse 2

**Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without Thy light to see.  
Lord just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. (Refrain)**

Sending: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr by Colleen Adent and Bruce Stevenson

Molly Wheeler

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**Flowers at the altar are given by Dean Gustafson in celebration of his wife Gloria's birthday.**