

The Community of Holy Trinity Lutheran

Sunday, March 22, 2020

4th Sunday in Lent

GOD GATHERS US

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The 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."

²Samuel 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.'

³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made

Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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." ¹²He 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." ¹³Then 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.
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

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.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹As [Jesus] 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 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. ⁸The 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?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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." ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

see attached file

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

The Prayers

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. We pray especially for the ELCA, the Upstate NY Synod and our companion synod in Zimbabwe, retired pastors in our conference—*Norm Heid, Alice Moberg, Gus Wedemeyer, Marie Jerge, Nelson Gaetz, Roger Beiswenger, Steve Hluchy, Teresa Langdon, Jaent Fechner, Dave Almleaf, and Bruce Schrader*—*Barry Sisson* and the congregation of Grace Chapel, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day, especially those named on our prayer list along with those we name in our hearts. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. We especially pray for our area hospitals and nursing homes in this time of crisis. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face shine upon us with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon us with favor and † give us peace. Amen.



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website: www.htlutheranchurch.org**Celebrations this week:**

- Happy Birthday TODAY to *Blake Handley, Lindsay Handley* on March 26.

News around the congregation: (gleaned from communication during the week):

1. *Greetings from Pastor Emeritus Steve Hluchy.*
2. Memorial Service for Rolfe Floyd, originally set for Saturday, April 18, will be rescheduled for a later date.
3. *Rick Powers is in conversation with Roswell, Cleveland Clinic, Strong Memorial (Rochester), and St. Joseph's as he searches for treatment to begin as soon as possible for esophageal cancer. He has a PET scan and surgeon's appointment in Syracuse on Monday.*
4. Sandy Vuillemot, Ward's sister-in-law, died this week.
5. *Cole Handley had successful surgery in Albany on Tuesday.*
6. Lisa Ryan starts her new job on Monday, March 23. Congrats, Lisa!
7. *Things members are doing at home as we wait out COVID-19:*
 - a. *Make a list of favorite actors/actresses or favorite movies, and watch on either Netflix or Amazon Prime.*
 - b. *Take a walk each day outside.*
 - c. *Clean a closet or bureau.*
 - d. *Bring your offering envelope in to church and put it in the mail slot.*
 - e. *Reconnect with a family member or long-lost friend.*
 - f. *Read a book you have been wanting to read, but haven't had the time.*
 - g. *Spend quiet time with God, listening for God's still, small voice for comfort.*

We remember those in need of prayer. Lord please grant...

Peace and Comfort to the Families of: *Sandy Vuillemot* (Ward Vuillemot's sister-in-law); *Minette Frank* (Dobrovosky family friend); *Rolfe Floyd*; *Bob Bryerton* (Julie Corbett's brother-in-law)

Healing from Surgery/Injury/Illness: *Rick Powers; Dawn Matijas-Czolowski; Dot Watson* (Karen Camp's sister); *Marian Settineri; George Schwenke; Laura Horian* (friend of congregation); *Georgia Peach* (Kathryn Carlson's friend); *Jim Bartlett* (Kathryn Carlson's nephew); *Tracy Foran* (Sheila Ryder's niece); *Eric Withey* (Sheila Ryder's friend); *Tom Loescher* (Debbie Feldmann Loescher's

husband); *Carolyn Schwenke* (Schwenkes' daughter-in-law); *The Griswold Family* (Vuillemot's friends); *Norma Metz* (Barb Mushock's mother); *Marike* (June Vuillemot's friend); *Dale and Louise Zabel*; *Don* (Preschool Director Desiree Franciamone's father); *Polly Weeks* (Al Matijas' sister); *Shirley Perry*; *Ann Bader*; *Rose*; *Clara Siefka*; *Sylvia Maditsi* (Val Schulz' friend)

Long-term Healing and Comfort to: *Suzanne Rouland* (Schwenke's relative); *Becky Britton* (Rolfe Floyd's daughter); *Josh Wilson* (Joyce Trickett's son); *Pat Barrie* (Karen Camp's sister-in-law); *Barbara Keefe* (Rolfe Floyd's sister-in-law); *The Olsen Family*; *Beverly* (Mary Dobrovosky's mother); *Jim McGowen* (Scott Braun's coworker friend); *The Reeves Family*

Guidance and Wisdom to: All God's people facing persecution and gun violence throughout the world; those protecting the health of Skaneateles, Otisco, and Oswaco Lakes along with all the Finger Lakes; our companion synod of Zimbabwe; our ELCA leaders and staff – *Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton*, *Synod Bishop John S. Macholz*, *Conference Dean Gail Wolling*; *St. Michael's Lutheran* in Camillus; *Barry Sisson* and *Grace Chapel*, and *Pastor Paula* and the *Council* and *lay members* of *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*.

Meals for All Skaneateles Residents

The Skaneateles Central School District, in conjunction with support from our community members, the Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry, and Skaneateles Outreach, is offering meals to anyone who needs them in the difficult weeks ahead. Breakfast and lunch are available to any family, regardless of income, who needs assistance at this time. Our kitchen will be open to prepare meals for our community over the next few weeks. You do not need to have children in the school system, and you do not need submit any financial paperwork. These are unsettling times, and we, along with the generous support of our community, will be extending our table to all of our families.

Please click on the survey below to let us know how we can best help you. If you are not able to pick up meals, we will be providing home delivery service - especially for our senior citizens, for those who are quarantined, or families with members whose immune systems are compromised.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyJqsA7AbD6Tpva1KRbN4nMUdPpQIwEQt89v5xe-Zae-yikQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you are not able to complete this online form, please contact our School Lunch Director, Emily Cullen at ecullen@skanschools.org or leave her a message at 315-291-2248.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you need meal assistance. We would like to thank the community again for all of your generous donations through the Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry and Skaneateles Outreach. Donations can still be made via this link: <https://www.townofskaneateles.com/covid-19/outreach-covid-19-relief-fund/>

Stay well everyone.

Respectfully, Dr. Jeffrey Bryant, Interim Superintendent of Schools