



**March 22, 2020**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from all congregations – Hope, Augustana, First Lutheran  
Worship broadcast via radio/YouTube

First Lutheran Mission Statement:

*“As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome  
all people with open hearts”.*

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

**HYMN #673, V.1,4**



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A READING FROM PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

## **A READING FROM JOHN 9:1-17**

<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.”

## **GOSPEL: John 9:18-34**

<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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **SERMON**

**PASTOR ALI HAUGERUD**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

## **HYMN #768**

## 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

## 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.

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

HYMN #452, V.1,5



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con- quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*It is unknown at this time if some of the events scheduled in the upcoming weeks will occur.*

*We will do our best to keep you advised.*

*Be sure to call the church with any questions at 739-3348 or email to [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org).*

**COVID 19** - For the health and safety of our community and the people of First Lutheran Church we will be suspending all in person gatherings of more than 10 people, this includes, Worship Services, Sunday School, confirmation classes, bible studies, and adult/youth fellowship groups, until further notice. The ELCA churches of Fergus Falls have joined together to provide worship opportunities on Sunday mornings and mid-week Wednesdays services. All worship services are closed to the public, but will be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KBRF AM1250 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30am on Sundays and 6:30pm on Wednesdays. The building will be closed to the public until further notice, but the church office will be staffed from 9 a.m.-1 p.m Monday-Thursday as we are able.

**We appreciate your on-going support of the ministry** of First Lutheran Church. Your gifts may be mailed to the church at 402 South Court Street, or you can visit the website [firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org) and click donate on the upper right corner and set up your donation plan. Any questions, please call the office 739-3348.

**Radio Broadcasts are available for sponsorship** in the upcoming weeks. Cost: \$100.00. If you would like to cover a broadcast, please call the office at 739-3348 to check on availability. Thanks for supporting this important ministry.

**Lifetouch** photo sessions have been cancelled and will be rescheduled. Watch for information.

**Meal by Wheels** volunteers are needed for April 6-10. Please contact the office at 739-3348 or [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org) if you can help. Thank you!!

**Students entering or continuing a nursing program** next fall have a scholarship opportunity through the PioneerCare Auxiliary. Applications are now being accepted for the Lillian Saure Nursing Scholarship, with an application deadline of May 15, 2020. Candidates may download the application online at [www.pioneercafe.org](http://www.pioneercafe.org) or pick up a paper copy at PioneerCare.

**Spring Flowering Plants** will be used to decorate the church at Easter. If you would like to purchase a plant, please send a check for \$20 to the office. Those purchasing a plant may take it home after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday.

**Breathing Under Water**, a Spirituality and Twelve Step Bible Study based on the book by Richard Rohr begins May 4 and continues through August 10. Sign-up in the Narthex, or contact Pastor Gretchen.

**VBS Day Camp with Luther Crest “Go Make Disciples” July 6-9** at Hope Lutheran Church from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for ages 4 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Sponsored by Augustana, First, Hope and Zion Lutheran Churches. If you would like to contribute toward scholarships to VBS Day Camp you can use a pew envelope and note Luther Crest Day Camp scholarships. Thank you!

**VBS Butterflies “Noah’s Ark” July 6-9** at First Lutheran Church 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for ages birth through 5 years old. All are welcomed.

**Financial Update:** as of March 15, 2020, revenue \$90,803.30 year-to-date budget \$115,797. 20.

Weekly Public Meeting Schedule at First Lutheran*			
Meetings to follow guidelines regarding COVID 19			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
12:00 pm OA 5:00 pm Al Anon 6:15 pm OA	6:00 pm Girl Scouts <i>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday</i>	9:30 am Al Anon 10:00 am AA 11:00 am Caregiver Support <i>4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday</i> 1:00 pm Cookie Monster AA	6:00 pm Women’s AA 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack <i>304 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday</i>