



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday Evening Worship

March 18, 2023

5:00 p.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preservice Music

(please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 23)

The Lord is my Shepherd

I shall not want.

The Shepherd calls.

We hear the Shepherd's voice.

The Shepherd cares for our every need.

We are loved.

The Shepherd searches for us.

We are found.

The Shepherd leads us through the deepest valleys.

We will not be afraid.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymn "God Whose Almighty Word" ELW 673

Confession

As we continue on this Lenten journey, we acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Gracious God,

We confess that we often invest our attention in misguided places and in misguided ways. We admit that where we focus our attention can prevent us from recognizing you at work right in front of us. Forgive us, and help us to center our lives in you so that cross-marked and Spirit-sealed we may join in your creative and redeeming work for all the world. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord, Amen

God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world. Buried with Christ by baptism into death, Your sins are forgiven in +Jesus' name. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, You are raised to new life. Almighty God strengthen you in faith To live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

Amen

Hymn "O Jesus I Have Promised" ELW 810

Let us pray together

When we are distracted by things that cause us to lose track of your call, O God, turn our attention back to you. that we might recognize you at work in our lives. Direct the ponderings of our hearts toward where you call us to pay attention. Teach us to regard your work in all creation and to be attentive to what you are doing. Amen.

(please be seated)

Message

John 9:1-41

Pastor Mark Boster

(please stand as you are able)

Hymn “Amazing Grace” ELW 779

The Creed

(Luther’s Explanation to the Third Article of the Creed)

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

The Prayers

Sharing of Peace

(please be seated)

The Offering

(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Blessing

God, you bless us in order that we would be a blessing to others. Use these gifts that we bring that they might be living signs of your grace to all who are in need. Bless your church that we would be a source of hope and a blessing to your world. Give us servant hearts that beat to the rhythm of your grace in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

The Table

Your grace is amazing. Your love is steadfast. Your mercy is never-ending.

We gather at your table to receive your forgiveness and feast on your grace.

We celebrate your victory over sin and death.

You are truly present in bread and wine.

Words of Institution

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

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

Come, Holy Spirit; open our eyes to see you more clearly.

Come, Holy Spirit; open our hearts to love you in deeper ways.

Come, Holy Spirit; open our hands to serve your world through specific acts of love and mercy.

Lord's Prayer

(please be seated)

The Distribution

Blessing

Benediction

Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW 793

Go in peace, serve in love.

Thanks be to God!
