

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026+ 9:30 am

The man born blind

image of baptism: light & sight

All Are Welcome! Mt Carmel at 100 – Past Present Promise 1926 - 2026

*In baptism, we receive the light that will never go out
Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. 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.*

Lent 2026 We journey to the place of God's mercy (Images of Baptism)

Feb 22	<i>The temptation of Jesus (renouncing evil)</i>
March 1	<i>The mission of Christ: saving the world (Nicodemus seeks rebirth)</i>
March 8	<i>The woman at the well (living water)</i>
March 15	<i>The man born blind (light and sight)</i>
March 22	<i>The raising of Lazarus (out of the tombs)</i>

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

GATHERING MUSIC

"The King of Love"

C. Gounod

At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.

GATHERING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 722

“O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”

- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.**
- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another's pain
as though it were our own.**
- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great heart,
become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.**
- 4 O Love that made the distant stars,
yet marks the sparrow's fall,
whose arms stretched wide upon a cross
embrace and bear us all:**

**come, make your church a servant church
that walks your servant ways,
whose deeds of love rise up to you,
a sacrifice of praise!**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.,
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly is invited to stand and may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us turn to God and confess our sin
in the assurance of God's abiding love.

silence is kept for reflection

Kyrie (*Lord have mercy*)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy.

Christe eleison. Christe eleison.

Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison. Christ have mercy.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy.

silence for reflection

P Gracious God,

C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sin. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

David is chosen and anointed

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.

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." 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.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *You anoint my head with oil. (23:5)* *(paraphrase)*
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" *(hymn)* **ELW 502**

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.**
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.**
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.**
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.**

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

SECOND READING

Live as children of light

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

Once 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.

C Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing: (ELW setting 3, p. 142)

**C Return to the Lord you God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and
abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL

The 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.

P The holy gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

As 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

silence is kept for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 780

“Shepherd Me, O God”

Refrain

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. Refrain
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. Refrain
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. Refrain
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love
in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. Refrain
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23 © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.,
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APOSTLES' CREED

(adapted: each petition begins “I put my trust in...”)

A ... we proclaim the faith that we share.

**C I PUT MY TRUST IN God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I PUT MY TRUST 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 PUT MY TRUST 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

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

each petition concludes:

...hear us O God.

C Your mercy is great.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

RECONCILING PEACE

P In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the plates as they are passed, at the usher desk or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"Amazing Grace"

John Coates, Jr.

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Procession

(ELW hymn #188)

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1975)(*to match Wednesday's Holden Evening Prayer*)

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

“Lamb of God”

(setting 3; page 146)

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BLESSING

P Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.
Keep these words in your heart as you walk the way of Lent.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 324

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.**
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.

A Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

J. B. Carlson

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Audrey Erickson, *assisting minister*

Youth, *first readers*

Karl Breitbarth, *second reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Sanctuary Choir

Julie and Dave Larson, *technology desk*

... *confirmation sacristan*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Dave Samletzka, Barb Hollister, *ushers*

Matti Gurney, *bus ministry*

Jim Evans and Julie Johnson, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given to the glory of God.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

The YouTube webcast this weekend is sponsored

by Al and Audrey Erickson.

If you wish to sponsor the webcast sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

WELCOME

Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



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