

March 22



MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3215 DOUGLAS ROAD TOLEDO, OHIO 43606
419 - 472-2161
www.memorial-lutheran.org

Rev. A. N. Mary Adelsberger
Cindy Cabanski, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Zaborski, Christian Life Coordinator
Carol Topolski, Director of Music
Mia Schlegel - Nursery Attendants

pastor@memorial-lutheran.org
office@memorial-lutheran.org
Bookkeeper, Pam Schlegel
Custodian, Ron Jensen

PRAYER CONCERNS: Peggy Scholl, Bob Rank, Kathy Schoembs, Sam Schlegel, Claudia Sauer, Chuck Rhegness, Marilyn Ganucci, Sheila MacKay Davidson, Terry Bean, Marcene Jackson, Phyllis Ballas, Kathryn Robert, Jacob Gulch, Don Gurwell, David Poulson, Joanne Hummel, Diane Swartz, Owen Anthony, Keira Hall **Members of our military to keep in your prayers:** Ryan Woods, Reid Leslie, Henry Kozak, Dustin Pawloski

Contributions Needed Per Week: \$6,307.25
Contributions Received Last Week: \$1,633.51
Contributions Pledged thru 2-29-2020: \$45,770.78
Contributions Received thru 2-29-2020: \$42,245.93

Please remember to send in your tithes and offerings. Even though worship is suspended our bills need to be paid and our operating expenses met.

Please watch your email for updates on when our worship services will be streaming on youtube. You can check periodically thru our website at memorial-lutheran.org and click on the link or go to youtube address: MemorialLutheran-Toledo.

Congratulations to Holly and Karlin Gibson upon the birth of their son and daughter on March 18. Vivian Mae was 6lbs 1oz and 19 inches long. Vincent Thomas was 6lbs. 10oz. and 20 inches long. Their very proud grandparents are Tom and Cindy Cabanski.

March 22

Open Our Eyes, Lord
Sing 2 times

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Gracious God, **C: 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.**

P: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **C: Amen.**

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.

Lent Litany

P: We join Jesus in the desert on our Lenten Walk.

C: Sustain us, dear Lord, and give us His strength to hear your call.

P: When we thirst,

C: help us remember that you are the living water that gives us life.

P: When we are blinded by the world around us,

C: Help us focus on you and receive fresh sight.

P: In the darkness of Lent,

C: remind us we are people of the resurrection, freed to live a new life in this world of sadness and struggle. We are freed people of God, given a gift to live in the joy of the Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

All: 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

The First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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 Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

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."

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

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

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 Children's Message

The Message

Pastor Mary

Ann Landers wrote this story in The Washington Post: "Mrs. Smith was stark-naked and just about to step into the shower when the doorbell rang. She hollered, 'Who is it?' He shouted back, 'It's the blind man.' She figured it was safe, so she opened the door. He looked at her in shock and asked, 'Where do you want me to hang these blinds, lady?'" He was a blind man, but he could see! Oh dear!

Some people are better at seeing than others. I love birds. We have a little collection that visits our yard every morning. We have a small cardinal who likes to sing long ballads, we have an oriole, and a black and white finch. We have a small adult dove, and a couple of loud crows. We have a few others that I can't see clearly, but they like to chirp and sing to us as well. We also have a squirrel who doesn't like me very much and a very shy chipmunk. Some of the birds are new to me. We had different ones in California.

Scrub jays, doves, crows. Scrub jays loved to eat breadcrumbs. I never threw any stale bread away because they would gobble anything I'd put out in seconds. But these new ones ignored the bread completely. And the squirrel was not interested in the California almonds. I think that's why he's mad at me, he's proud to be an Ohio squirrel and only wants the local nuts. I don't know. I don't see why they wouldn't want my food. My friends, Melody and Mike know animals better. They feed foxes, raccoons, skunks and wait for other animals to pass through their yard, and they know their birds and squirrels. They kindly sent me a Birds and Blooms magazine, which thankfully as I looked and studied told me to feed the cardinals jam, the orioles oranges, and the finches seed. I didn't know until I saw information that told me what to do. Months of not knowing, because I never looked for and saw information that could help me. I suppose if I was bright, I could have looked on the internet to see what information was there. I simply needed to open my eyes to the obvious, that they have and saw clearly. I was kind of blind, even though I could clearly see if I looked.

In the Scripture today we have two types of people: One who was blind, but would see; and others who could see, but would become blind. Today our story begins as Jesus and his disciples engage with a man who has been blind from birth. He is begging. It is the only thing he can do to get enough money to survive. The first reaction of the disciples is to assume, as all those in that culture did, that because he was afflicted with blindness it was a punishment for some sin he or his parents had committed. "Who sinned?", they asked. It is an interesting question. I continue to see the disciples as a bit blind, you see.

I was talking to my friend, Mark, he was telling me that many Asian-Americans, were very frightened because people were blaming them for this virus. One American of Chinese descent had been accosted and was now buying a gun for protection. My friend Rick in Florida who works at Bass Pro said they didn't even have any ammo left, because Asians there were buying so much. Humans somehow need to blame someone for their inconveniences --- Was this man's blindness and the corona virus punishment?

The Pharisees believed the blind man's blindness was due to some sin. They said to him, "You were steeped in sin at birth" (John 9:34). Yeah, they weren't going to blame God for the evil and suffering in the world. That would be frightening as they feared God. So, because someone had to be blamed, they blamed the blind guy. He was at fault, he had to be, they couldn't explain it any other way. If you suffer, you must deserve it, and God's justice. Jesus says, "no way", the God of love, my father, doesn't operate like that. The Bible says, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good; and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). God loves and treats sinners and saints alike. When natural evil like this happens, there is no hidden reason for it, and we make a mistake in trying to search for a reason. God still is very much in love with you and has not abandoned you. The day will come when he will deliver you. So, if you think that God's punishing you stop thinking it. Natural evil is not caused by God. He uses evil to do good, though.

Jesus is the Light of the World, bringing light to this man's eyes and to us. Right now, Jesus' light is shining—hopefully it can shine through us. There is opportunity in every dark cloud. Stuck at home, read your Bible, call seniors, friends, family. Spend time with people you are at home with. Look for new ways to do things, see what really is necessary, slow down, do what counts. Maybe it's a chance to change—for the better, When the light shines into your eyes, you too have sight that you didn't have before. Fear not, doubt not.

Our world is responding with hoarding, fighting, blaming, angry, being irritated and annoyed. Well guess what, you are loved, you are being loved, you can give love. stop complaining, stop hoarding, start praising and start sharing. Let the light shine on you and be the light for others.

Come As You Are

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been come broken hearted let rescue begin Come find your mercy Oh sinner come kneel Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens Lay down your shame All who are broken Lift up your face Oh wanderer come home You're not too far So lay down your hurt Lay down your heart Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed Come sit at the table Come taste the grace There's rest for the weary Rest that endures Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't cure

So lay down your burdens Lay down your shame All who are broken Lift up your face Oh wanderer come home You're not too far Lay down your hurt lay down your heart

Come as you are Come as you are Fall in his arms Come as you are There's joy for the morning Oh sinner be still Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal Earth has no sorrow That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens Lay down your shame All who are broken Lift up your face Oh wanderer come home You're not too far So lay down your hurt Lay down your heart Come as you are Come as you are

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power (*like Jonathan Edwards, whom we commemorate today*). Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. 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*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. 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 (*especially*). 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.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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

The Benediction

P: Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, + bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **C: Amen**

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, His mercy rains unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, His mercy rains unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, His mercy rains unending love, amazing grace.

*Reprinted from Words for Worship, Copyright 2019
Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress
Reprinted from Augsburg Fortress Liturgies copyright 2019
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license SBL15568
Used by permission CCLI #1421895
Used by permission Onelicense.net A720173*