

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023



Introit *Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15*

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- |
on a rock.**

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**

and to the Holy | Spirit;

*as it was in the be- | ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*

the founder and perfecter | of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*

and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . 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. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed,

and I see.”¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

Calendar

Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Sunday School—PreK to Adult
10:15 a.m. Divine Service
12:00 p.m. Soup Dinner + Trinity Proposal/HLHS

Monday, March 20

7:00 p.m. Elders

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 Lent Midweek 5
8:00 p.m. Refreshments (all)

Saturday, March 25

5:00 p.m. HLHS Red and Blue (Doniphan Events Center)

Sunday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School—PreK to Adult
10:15 a.m. Divine Service

Prayers

Sanctity of Human Life+ protection of the weak and vulnerable—LB 626 Heartbeat Bill & Nebraska Legislature +**Healing, Recovery, Strength+** Rosie Morthole (hospice); Harold Luebke (hospice); Russ Kunze (tumor and radiation); Sandy Royle (recovery-amputation); Jeanie Glause (chemo and radiation); Billie Peters (foot surgery); Jane Carol Kurz (heart); Bobby Larsen brother John (cancer); Susan Willman brother Terry (cancer); Harvey Langrehr (recovery from quadruple heart bypass); Krisha Uden, sister of Kraig Niemoth (cancer); +**Military+** Tyson Rasmussen; Kurt Morthole; Joseph Markvicka + **Missions, Outreach, and Christian Education+** Global missions—Ukraine; Lutheran Church of Nigeria and Lutheran Bible Translator projects; Nebraska Dist.—Christ, Lincoln, NE; Heartland Lutheran High School; Concordia, Seward and all our Concordias; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne and Concordia Sem., St. Louis.

Please remember these people in prayer during your home devotions.

Call 687-6314 or email cniem@kdsi.net if you have a petition to be included in the prayers.

On Holy Communion: “It is the Word, I say, that makes this a sacrament and distinguishes it from ordinary bread and wine, so that it is called and truly is Christ’s body and blood. For it is said, ‘When the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament.’ (Augustine)” (Luther’s Large Catechism—The Sacrament of the Altar. The Book of Concord, Kolb/Wenger ed. Augsburg: Minn, 2000. pg. 468.10)

Lent 2023: This year’s Lenten series—“**His Final Steps**”—invites us to ponder the significance of the people and places on Jesus’ resolute final steps to the cross and three days later, His first steps from the tomb. Not only does He call us to “**take up the cross and follow**” (Matthew 16:24) but He takes us along with Him!

The theme for this Wednesday’s midweek service is “*His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree*” (Mark 11:12-14). Please join us for the 7 p.m. Evening Prayer service.

Trinity Proposal and HLHS: Following services toay, there will be a soup lunch in the church basement, after which the information provided by the Trinity Task Force in regard to their proposal to possibly combine Trinity Lutheran School and Heartland Lutheran High School will be shared. This meeting is only to present the proposal from the task force. No definite plans have been determined yet as Trinity awaits input from the Association churches. Questions and concerns received from the congregation will be passed along to the task force. If you are unable to attend but would like a copy of the Task Force report, please see Zion delegates Pastor Niemeier or Carol Spiehs.

Camp Comeca: Registration packets for this year’s May 30-June 1 catechism camp are now available on the table in the narthex. Parents of interested 5th through 8th graders are encouraged to fill out forms and return to Pastor as soon as possible. The cost is \$115 per camper.

Sanctity of Human Life: “The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!” Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life ● lutheransforlife.org

Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

Stewardship Sentences: *“I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’”* (Psalm 142:5) The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.
