

# THE GOOD NEWS!

Beautiful Savior's Weekly Worship & News  
3/18/2020

## PASTORS' PEN:

As you have all hopefully heard, as of Wednesday, 3/18, ALL activity at Beautiful Savior has been paused and postponed due to the coronavirus. That means NO Sunday worship, NO mid-week Lent worship, NO Bible classes, NO fellowship events, NO Soup Suppers, NO Choir practice, NO Chimes practice, NO anything where people are gathered together. Lisa, our secretary, and I will be keeping our regular office hours, though probably a bit shortened, for now. HOWEVER, worship and Bible study will continue - as it has for thousands of years - in the homes of God's people - like YOURS! In our homes we all have Bibles; many also have hymnals and catechisms. Many have access to all kinds of devotional aids on the internet. USE THEM! Just because a building has limited gatherings doesn't mean the love and spiritual growth of God's people pauses or ends! Jesus never ends; neither does His people! Your leadership has also decided to continue communication by providing some kind of weekly worship notes and aids and announcements during this time. If desired, please use them during your daily and Sunday family devotions and worship. Certainly this initial page will change and grow over the weeks; if there's anything you would like to see included - let us know. Call or email the church office. Jesus remains LORD of life always - during those times we consider "good" as well as those times we consider "bad." In Jesus ALL times are good, for all times are in His hands. In Jesus Christ IS forgiveness and life now and always - through every day of the roller coaster of this life, through all of our eventual deaths, to resurrection and eternal life! ALL worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God in Jesus Christ now and forever!

## Daily Bible Reading & Devotional Aids:

Our Lent emphasis: John 6-7

Also: Luke - words and deeds of Jesus (written by "western man and thought" like us)

Acts - words and deeds of the Spirit through early Christians (also written by Luke)

## Resources online for daily and/or Sunday worship:

Beautiful Savior's website: [bslcms.org](http://bslcms.org) (hope to have past worship services available to listen)

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's website: [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) (daily devotions)

Lutheran Hour Ministries' website: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) (devotions)

Concordia Publishing House website & Portals of Prayer: [cph.org](http://cph.org) (devotions)

KFUO radio: [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) (AM 850)

PLEASE USE!

## Catechism Review: (for meditation)

Apostles' Creed w/meaning to 1st Article

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, [spouse] and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

# **SUNDAY WORSHIP AIDS**

(for your family's Sunday worship)

(For those without a hymnal at home, please pick one up at church and return when this time is past)

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

LORD God, You are the Almighty One who fills all eternity and whose name is holy. Yet You have assured us that You dwell with each believer in Christ. On this first day of the week, we pray that all who hear Your holy Word would experience the fulfillment of that promise. By Your holy Gospel enter our hearts and make them Your dwelling place. As Your holy Word is read and meditated upon, let us receive Your grace with a believing heart, that being so strengthened we may be not only hearers of Your Word, but also doers of Your will to others. Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation and give us the strength to put into practice what we have heard and confessed. Keep us humble learners for as many days as You have us on earth, and then receive us into the heavenly home You have prepared for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer. AMEN.

(other hymns/songs if desired)

## **WORD OF GOD** (see insert)

**HYMN: #744** - "Amazing Grace" (sung or read) (see insert if needed)

## **DEVOTION: John 9:1-41** - "What Do You See?"

What do you see? What do you see around us in the world today? Today you see what all of us see - coronavirus, sickness, fear, worry, confusion, and death! What did we used to see? Crime, sorrow, loss, ill health, fear, worry, and death! Truly not much has really changed; while certainly accelerated today, this world is still filled with darkness, despair, and death.

In our text Jesus basically asked people, "What do you see?" The Pharisees and many of the people saw a man who claimed to be God - blasphemy! - and dismissed Him or wanted Him dead. Others, like the blind man, saw something different - a healer, a Savior. As the blind man said and we sang, "I was blind but now I see."

It's easy in this world and life to see the bad and not see the good, to dwell on the negative and not see the positive. Yes, today our world is in a time of heightened crisis; there is uncertainty, fear, and death JUST like every other day! But there is also always good - God our Creator is still present; His created blessings are still with us; His powerful Spirit is still working; His Son Jesus is still saving. Through all the darkness, despair, and death of this fallen sinful world, there is still love, light, peace, comfort, and JOY in Jesus! For by His death and resurrection there is forgiveness and life - now and forever! You and I were also once "blind," but by God's power, "now we see!" We see Jesus; we see love; we see life; we see opportunities and possibilities to love and share God's love to others in days of darkness, despair, and death!

In the Old Testament the prophet Elisha's servant was afraid and scared of an enemy surrounding the city, but Elisha said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of houses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kngs 6:16-17). They saw God's mighty heavenly army! "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them" is also God's message to each of us this day of uncertainty as well as every other day in this life. God is with us! Jesus Christ is with us! God's Spirit is with us! God's heavenly army is with us! We who were once blind now see God and His blessings always! Regardless of what happens in this life, in Jesus Christ we have forgiveness and life! Therefore, every day, in all circumstances - we PRAISE the name of the LORD! AMEN!

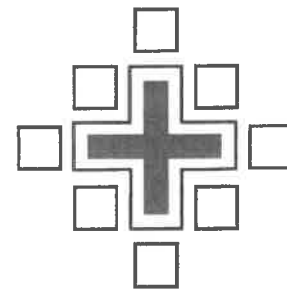
## **OFFERING**

(During this time offerings can be placed in the special "Offering Box" in the church atrium, mailed to the church, or dropped off during regular office hours.)

**PRAYERS:** (see and include names and items on other page)

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020



**INTROIT**      *Ps. 27:4–6; antiphon: Ps. 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

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.

**GRADUAL**      *Heb. 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.

## DAILY READINGS

**March 22:** Gen. 41:28–57; Mark 11:20–33; **23:** Gen. 42:1–34, 38; Mark 12:1–12; **24:** Gen. 43:1–28; Mark 12:13–27; **25:** Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34; Mark 12:28–44; **26:** Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28; Mark 13:1–23; **27:** Gen. 47:1–31; Mark 13:24–37; **28:** Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26; Mark 14:1–11.

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## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14–21

- <sup>14</sup> For 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.
- <sup>15</sup> I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.
- <sup>16</sup> And 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.
- <sup>17</sup> They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”
- <sup>18</sup> Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!
- <sup>19</sup> Who 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?
- <sup>20</sup> He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
- <sup>21</sup> The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

## Epistle: Ephesians 5:8–14

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for 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 9:1–41

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

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your

eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So 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>So 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.” <sup>16</sup>Some 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. <sup>17</sup>So 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.”

<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 how he now sees we do not know, 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 these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to 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 said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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>And 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, “Why, this is an amazing 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 if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man 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 in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

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## Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

1 *Sublime gracia del Señor,  
 que a un pecador salvó;  
 perdido andaba, él me halló;  
 su luz me rescató.*

2 *Su gracia me enseñó a vencer,  
 mis dudas disipó.  
 ¡Qué gozo siento en mi ser!  
 Mi vida él cambió.*

March 18, 2020

## Our Prayers

(today & throughout the week)

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).*

### IN NEED:

End of coronavirus

Johnda Meaux - recovering from surgery

Jan Templeton - pneumonia

Donna - friend of Cher Niehaus, cancer

Thomas - friend of Cher Niehaus, health concerns

Larry - brother of Mila Thomas, recovering from surgery

Continuing health issues: Shirley Belter, Joan Bernard, El-Vera Biedenstein, LeRoy Ettling, Naoma Keppler, Kathi Meier, Diana Rogers, Janet Segasture, Jim Thomas

Adopted Military: Jacob & Nick Beagley (Bretscher)



### THANKSGIVING:

BAPTISM REMEMBRANCES: Nancy Barry (3/23); Sara Thomas (3/26)

BIRTHDAYS: Elaine Bretscher (3/26)

ANNIVERSARIES: Mike & Karen Betts, 3/24 (13 years)

## PREPARATION & MEDITATION DURING THE WEEK:

Next Sunday's Scripture readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45



### **Walk In Church Office Hours (*other times by appointment*)**



Secretary: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 am -2:00 pm

Pastor: Tuesday–Thursday 1:00 -4:00 pm

## **CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:** (*Christ living in His people*)

Total general offering received - 2020: \$34,402.00

Amount needed to meet 2020 Budget: \$211,462.00

## Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

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**LIFE QUOTES:** "At home: can we be more loving and forgiving to those who mean so much to us? Can we take the time to show our unconditional love? At work: are we really a Christian example to our coworkers? Can we be more mindful of the struggles others are going through? At church: where sometimes, ironically, it's the hardest, can we put on the mind of Christ, giving ourselves to our brothers and sisters in the faith? ... Let the message of God's love in Jesus resonate boldly in your own life ... to God's glory." Dr. J. A. O. Preus - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

### **CALLING ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS:**

Did you know that you may be accruing Choice Dollars meant to support charities YOU care about? The deadline is **March 31st!** Any Choice Dollars remaining after that date are given to charitable organizations determined by Thrivent. Consider directing YOUR Choice Dollars to Beautiful Savior. More information on how to do this is available on a table in the atrium.



**SAVING MONEY WITH YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD):** The new tax law passed in 2019 changed the age for RMD's to 72 years of age. However, there is a way to do your RMD **AND** do a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)! Part or all of your RMD can go directly from your IRA Trustee to the charity (or charities) of your choice and would not be counted as income, which can save you tax dollars! Bob Engelken has additional information on how QCDs can help save money on your Required Minimum Distribution and would be glad to discuss it with you regarding your 2020 taxes.

*Note! If you would prefer **NOT** to receive this mailing, please call or email the church office using the contact information provided above.*