

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026



**ONE THING
I DO KNOW;
I WAS
BLIND
BUT NOW I
SEE.**

John 9:25

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, ELCA

holycrossmtnhome.com

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Dan Schmidt, Music Director



We're glad you're here!
Visitors are invited to fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. Join us for fellowship after worship! Thank you to Phyllis Hamilton, Kathy Arnold & Lisa Streu for hosting today.

As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

Sharing of the Peace

L: The Peace of Lord be with you.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us offer this gift of God's peace to one another.

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious god,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

VERSE 1

♩ = 80

E F#m7 E/G# A E/B B7sus B7 A/B

1. I have a Mak - er, He formed my heart.

5 E F#m7 E/G# A F/B B E F#m7 E/G#

Be - fore e - ven time be - gan, my life was in His hand.

CHORUS

A E B E A E B E

He knows my name, He knows my ev - ry thought.

13 A E B C#m A B E A/E

2nd time to Coda

He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.

VERSE 2

E F#m7 E/G# A E/B B7sus B7 A/B E F#m7

2. I have a Fa - ther, He calls me His own. He'll nev - er leave

CONT. ON PAGE 4

E/G# A E/B B E F#m7 E/G# D.S. al Coda

me. no mat-ter where I go.

A B A/B C#m C#m/B

hears me when I call, He

ENDING

A B E

hears me when I call.

Greeting

L: 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.

Kyrie

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray the prayer of the day together;

C: 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 Word

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ 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." ² Samuel 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.'" ³ Invite 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." ⁴ Samuel 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?" ⁵ He 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. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But 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." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel 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." ¹² He 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." ¹³ Then 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**
³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in
the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, 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."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The 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?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He 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." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then 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." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So 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." ¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but 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." ²² His 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. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called ⁶

the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ 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?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus 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." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

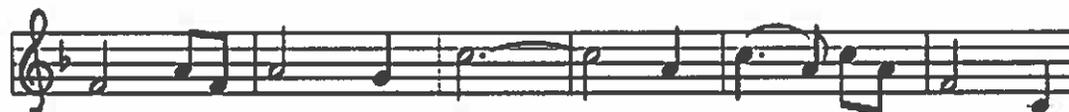
Message

Hymn of the Day ELW#779

"Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Apostles' Creed

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

Prayers of the People

After each petition of the prayers:

L: Hear us, O God; **C: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Concerns

Call Committee, Gloria Fenter (Friend of Judy Hoover), Pam Guth, Wayne Heinz (Close Friend of the Hamilton's), Chris Holm (Cleo Holm's Daughter), Dorothy Meyer, Dan & Donna Schmidt, Dion Stanford (Marita's Husband), Curt West (Barb Kampen's Brother), Matt Zipperer (Former member), and for all our homebound members and friends. Those serving in uniform, for our enemies and those we find hard to love, and for all who travel.

Offering & Offertory

Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Offering Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

L: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

L: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

All who are repentant of their sins and believe in the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament are welcome to receive the elements. As usual, the wine is the dark liquid and the grape juice is the light liquid. Please be cautious and only touch the cup you choose to commune with. Those who are not communing may come forward, with arms crossed upon the chest, to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymn ELW#614

"There is a Balm in Gilead"



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



- 1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

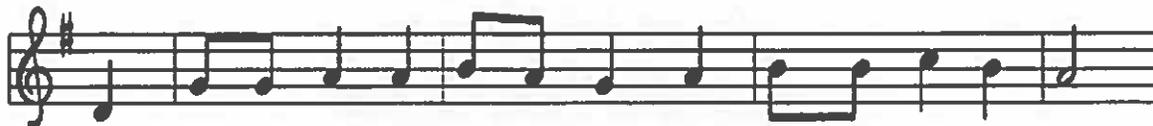


but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Benediction



1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call.
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con- quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Dismissal

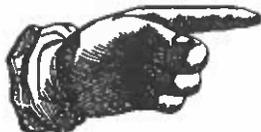
L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.
 C: Thanks be to God.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS NEXT SUNDAY!!



Please Notice This



WELCA would like to honor the veterans of Holy Cross during our upcoming 40th Anniversary Celebration. If you are a veteran, please sign the sheet on the table in the Narthex so I can pass that information along. Thank you!

IN LOVING *Memory*

A memorial service will be held for beloved member of our congregation, Steve Kampen, on Saturday, April 4th at 11am here at Holy Cross.



Easter Breakfast

Come join together on Easter morning to enjoy breakfast with your church family and friends. Breakfast will be served before church and after the worship service. The meal will be ready at 7:45am, so come enjoy breakfast when you are ready. The menu is as follows: Egg casserole, biscuits and sausage gravy, bakery goods, fruit salad, juice and coffee. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, so please sign up if you are planning to attend! Bring your friends, relatives, and neighbors for good food, good fellowship and rejoicing in our Lord's resurrection! If you have any questions, please call Carol Wheeler at 488-5044.

Easter Flowers

Would you like to donate Easter Flowers for our Easter Sunday worship service? If so, please bring flowers of your choice to the church on Friday, April 3rd or April 4th and place them in the Parlor. The Altar Guild will then arrange them on the altar area for our beautiful Easter Sunday worship. Any questions, please call Carol Wheeler at 488-5044. Thank you.

~FAITH & FELLOWSHIP~

WELCA's Monday Morning Workshop: The ladies gather every Monday morning at 9:00am to sew and share in fellowship.

Senior Exercise Class: A gentle exercise class that accommodates senior aches and pains. Join us Tuesdays at 1:00pm for some good stretching, moving and fellowship.

Hope Circle is on the **Fourth** Tuesday of each month at 10:00am. Study lessons from *Gather* magazine, a publication of WELCA.

Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00am. We study the Bible readings for the upcoming Sunday along with good fellowship. Join us for some interesting discussions.

***Bible Study Attendance 3/11: 11 ***

Those Serving This Week:

Worship Leader & ALM: Sue Hahn & Kathy Scott

Music: Dan Schmidt

Ushers: Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros

Altar Guild: Kathy Scott

Counters: Judy Hoover & Lenora Walejko

Ministers: All the members of HCLC

Church Attendance 3/8: 36

This Week at Holy Cross

Mon. 3/16	8:30am-12:30pm 9:00am	Church Office Open WELCA Workshop
Tue. 3/17	8:30am-12:30pm 1:00pm	Church Office Open Senior Exercise Class
Wed. 3/18	8:30am-12:30pm 10:00am	Church Office Open Bible Study
Thur. 3/19	8:30am-12:30pm	Church Office Open
Fri. 3/20	8:30am-12:30pm	Church Office Open
Sat. 3/21	9:00am	Men's Group Mtg.
Sun. 3/22	9:00am 10:00am	Worship Fellowship

Those Serving Next Week:

Worship Leader & ALM: Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek

Music: Dan Schmidt

Ushers: Dean & Jane Smith

Altar Guild: Jane Smith

Counters: Judy Hoover & Lisa Streu

Ministers: All the members of HCLC

