

COF Worship, Sunday March 22, 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Opening Music

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

L: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

P: Even when all is falling down around me, God is with me.

L: The Lord provides quietness and rest when I am worried

P: And shows me how to walk right paths in my life

L: Even when I am afraid, God's presence soothes me.

P: The good things I have are from God, and I will praise the Lord for all the Lord has done!

Let us pray: **Loving God, during this time of worry and fear, when we are forced to be apart from one another in person, may your Spirit bring us closer together. As we are together in this new way help us to remember that, as you are always with us even when we can't see you, we also are the body of Christ even when we are apart from one another. Hear us as we pray this, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: *Our Father in heaven, 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.***

Song: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad and made the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at God's command and all the stars obey*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the world with food
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good
Lord how thy wonders are displayed wherever I turn my eye
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order of thy throne
While all that borrows life from thee is every in thy care,
And everywhere that I shall look, God, thou art present there*

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you**

with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name. (moment of silence.)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare that, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture—Read in sections—And Sermon

John 9:1-12

As he 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.”

John 9:13-33

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.

John 9:33-41

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.

Affirmation of Faith—Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns—*please type into the comments box on the lower right hand sign of the screen, or speak them out loud if you're on the conference call.*

Prayers of the People

Song: Amazing Grace

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

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come, tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Charge and Benediction