



All Saints Lutheran Church

12701 Highland Road, Hartland, MI 48353

Phone: 248-887-8060

March 22, 2020

4th Sunday in Lent



The Gathering

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

P If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

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.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Open our eyes, Lord

W&P #113

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see Je - sus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we
love him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes, Lord, we
want to see Je - sus.

GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA Keep in Mind that Jesus Christ Has Died for Us

Refrain
Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the
dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.
2 In him all our sor - row, in him all our joy. In
Refrain
him hope of glo - ry, in him all our love.

Refrain

Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the

dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.

3 In him our re - demp - tion, in him all our grace. In

him our sal - va - tion, in him all our peace. *Refrain*

Refrain

Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the

dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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

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.” 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.’ 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.” 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?” 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.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." 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." 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." 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 The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**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.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**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

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

P The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Now lis - ten, you ser - vants of
God, and take his words to heart, for
this is the word of the Lord; hear it, re -
ceive it, and be - lieve it. How
rich are the depths of God, how deep his wis - dom and
knowl - edge; to him be glo - ry for - ev -
er, our source, our guide, our goal.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John, the 9th chapter (verses 1-41).
Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 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, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 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.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." Some 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. 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."

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DENISE

Lessons Learned from a Candy Jar

When my children were entering the age when they could be left alone for short periods of time, I needed to go to the church for a quick errand. I reminded them of our house rules prior to my leaving. When I returned home from my short errand, I found three very quiet children and a broken candy jar. The candy jar was an antique family piece and I treasured it. I questioned each of the children individually and it seems that no one broke the candy jar. I told them we will talk about this tonight after their father came home.

After Brent and I had our discussion we called a “family meeting”. Silence, remorse, and a bit of dread, filled the living room as we gathered to talk. Then we laid it on our kids. We told them we were very sad the candy jar is broken and disappointed that someone hadn’t followed our house rules. Brent reminded them that it was special to me and nothing we do now can fix the broken piece of glass. But as special as the candy jar was to mom there is something far more precious, our family and the relationship of love between us. We know no one intentionally sought out to break the candy jar, it was an accident. It happened. What is more important is what we do now, we don’t let a broken candy jar separate us, we forgive in love as God forgives all of us. People and relationships are more important than things and rules.

I thought of this candy jar in reflecting on our gospel reading from John as Jesus heals the blind man on the Sabbath. Jesus is moved with compassion when he encounters a man blind from birth. The disciples traveling with him want to know “who did it, who broke the rules?” Did this man sin or his parents? Instead of giving them an answer to their question Jesus acts on behalf of this beloved child of God. Filled with compassion and knowing that he can fix him, Jesus restores the man’s sight and the glory of God is revealed.

Sadly, others are concerned about rule breakers. The religious authorities are upset with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. Jesus is severely chastised for not following the rules. The rules and who is to blame have become more important than the suffering of people and the relationships we have with one another.

There are a lot of people in our searching for answers and trying to place blame for the world wide viral crisis we are currently experiencing. Who didn’t follow the rules or procedures that caused the spread of this illness? Who has or has not acted as they should that we should be in this situation where beloved people of God are suffering so? And to be clear, all people are beloved to our God.

In compassion and love God through Jesus Christ stepped into the suffering of humanity not to cast blame but to fix the brokenness of all creation. The restoration and relationship of God and God’s beloved has always been more important than the rules. We have a God who has taken the humanity’s blame and shame to the cross. The glory of God is revealed in him. In his death and resurrection, the family of God is restored.

God’s love for us continues, God is moved with compassion to the suffering, anxiety, and fear that we experience today in this global crisis. God is with us, God is for us, and God holds us today. May God’s glory continue to be revealed in this and in us as we, as we love and care for one another and work together in whatever way is necessary in the days ahead. Amen.



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 to the dead.
 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

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. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially to those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERTORY

Even though we cannot be together in person right now to worship, the mission and ministries of All Saints Lutheran Church continue. If you are not on Simply Giving®, please continue your support by mailing your offering to the church. Thank you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

THE 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.

The Sending

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

By grace we have been saved

W&P #25 verses 1,2,3



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

All Saints Lutheran Church, 12701 Highland Road, Hartland, MI 48353
Phone: 248-887-8060 Email: office@myallsaints.com Website: www.myallsaints.com
Sunday Worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am - Reverend Denise Russell, Pastor