

March 15, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Creation Connection** How will we repent and change our ways as stewards of creation in the face of the temptation to limit our understanding of wholeness and health to those whom we experience as “just like us?” How do we expand our understanding to include all of God’s creatures and all of creation?

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

L: We light this candle to remind ourselves of the light of Christ that is within and among us.

*The candle is lit.*

**All: Praise be to God, who spoke Light into the world, who sends Light to live among us, who brings the Light of new dawns. Amen!**

**Prayer for Illumination** Let us pray, open our eyes dear Christ, that we may see glimpses of truth You have for all, place in our hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set us free. Silently now we wait for Thee, ready, our God, Your will to see. Open our eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine! Open our mouths and let us bear gladly the warm truth ev’rywhere; open our hearts, and let us prepare, love with Your children thus to share. Silently now we wait for Thee, ready, our God, Thy will to see; open our mouths, illumine all, Spirit divine! Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary, MVU # 18

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.

**Call to Worship**

L: O Lord, we come into Your Holy presence,

**P: Blind to so many things in our world.**

L: We cannot truly see the impact that both our actions and our inaction have upon others.

**P: But especially to their inner wounds, losses, and pain.**

L: Sweet Lord, give us the patience and the perception to see with our hearts and minds,

**P: So that we might better serve you, by serving others.**

**All: We are thankful for the insights which you lead us to, and may we be a blessing to others in using this embracing vision of humanity.**

**Ministry of Music** I Have Not Seen But I Believe

**Children’s Ministry** Acts of Kindness

**The Lord’s Prayer** *sung*

*Children leave for Sunday School*

**Offering Invitation & Prayer** Give glory to God! One thing we know, that though we can be willfully blind, in Christ our eyes can be opened. In gratitude, let us joyfully praise God with our tithes and offerings.

Good Shepherd, you seek us and all your lost sheep. Use these gifts, and those already given through PAR and online, to comfort and guide the weary, to bind up those who are broken-hearted and strengthen those who are weak, and to feed those who hunger. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Scripture Readings**

**Psalm 23**, VU # 747

The Lord’s my  
Shepherd, I’ll not want;  
He makes me down to  
lie  
in pastures green, He  
leadeth me,  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore  
again;  
And me to walk doth  
make  
within the paths of  
righteousness,  
E’en for his own name’s  
sake.

Yea, though I walk in  
death’s dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill,  
For thou art with me;  
And thy rod and staff me  
comfort still.

My table thou hast  
furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou doest with  
oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all  
my life  
Shall surely follow me,  
And in God’s house  
forevermore  
My dwelling place shall  
be.

John 9: 1-41

As Jesus went 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?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the

world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So, I went and washed, and then I could see."

"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

### The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore, the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So, they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees, who were with him, heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

### **Hymn**     **Are You a Shepherd?** MVU # 126

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us Safely through danger, while calming our fears?	Refrain Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher, But you are greater than all that we know.	Are you a mother, good mother who bears us, Comforts, protects, us and helps us to rest?	Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us, Lead all your children in paths that are right.
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us, Shares in our laughter and wipes away tears/	Holy and living, loving and giving, God you are with us wherever we go.	Are you a teacher who daily prepares us, Challenging students to offer their best?	Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us. We want to love you and bring you delight.
		Refrain	Refrain

### **Message**     **I Can See!**

**Hymn** *Open My Eyes That I May See*, VU # 371

Open my eyes, that I may see Glimpses of truth thou has for me; Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free. Silently, now, I wait for thee, Ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!	Open my ears, that I may hear Voices of truth thou sendest clear; And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear. Silently now, I wait for thee, Ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!	Open my mouth, and let me bear Gladly the warm truth everywhere; Open my heart and let me prepare Love with thy children thus to share. Silently now, I wait for thee, Ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit devine!
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**Pastoral Prayers**

**All:** Lord, we come before You today contritely and humbly, bowed in Your presence on this fourth Sunday of Lent. You are indeed our loving, guiding, and non-judgmental Shepherd. Gather us into the warm embrace of Your arms and comfort us, while making us brave enough to open our eyes more fully so that we can see the areas in our lives where we indeed need to heal. As we repent of our sin and prepare to be saved by You all over again, let our minds equally be with the millions of other people whose suffering is so much greater than ours, who lights may be dimmer than ours, and with those whose inner flames of hope and love burn more brightly in the midst of their pain and loss. We pray for peace, for sense and wisdom in this troubled world, and ask for Your forgiveness as we grow closer to the cross. Bless us all now, our loved ones and friends, and those in our society who are least able to feed, defend and protect themselves. May each one of our loving works and words this day serve to inspire unconditional love all around us. This we pray in Your Holy Name, our dear Saviour, Amen.

**Parting Hymn** *God, Whose Almighty Word*, VU # 313

God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard, And took their flight, hear us, we humbly pray, And where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, Let there be light.	Jesus, who came to bring on your redeeming wing, healing and sight, health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind, O now to humankind let there be light.	Spirit of truth and love, Life-giving, holy dove, Speed forth your flight; Move on the water's face, Bearing the lamp of grace, And in earth's darkest place Let there be light.	Blessed and holy three, Glorious trinity, Wisdom, love, might, Boundless as ocean's tide Rolling in fullest pride, Through the world far and wide, Let there be light.
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**Commissioning & Benediction** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. May the Peace of our Lord be with you all of your waking and sleeping moments. Amen.

**Choral Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**Choral Amen**