



**Church At Home**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario**  
**Lent IV** **March 15, 2026**

**Prayer of the Day**

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 Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41**

As he 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.

## **Homily**

I greet you in the name of Jesus, the One who died for us. Amen.

This is a very long Gospel passage. Aren't you glad I had you sit through it? So don't get too comfortable in your comfortable pew. I am going to move quickly and get to the point!

What is at the heart of this story is to go and tell others. The healing of the man born blind is a story about being called. First though, there is the invitation or the feeling to need to tell others.

Last week's story of the Samaritan woman at the well gave us the insight that each invitation involves challenge – the challenge of getting over our excuses for keeping a distance from God; the challenge of accepting the new identity Jesus offers; and the challenge of imagining that God could and would use her, and now the man born blind, to share the good news.

The healing of the man born blind is no ordinary healing story. Actually, nothing in John is ordinary. Yet, that is to be expected when grace upon grace is at work. Jesus does not just restore sight to the blind man but gives him a new identity as a disciple; just as he did to the

twelve. They left their old life behind to be disciples of Jesus; to invite the world to come and see.

The man has an identity. The “man born blind” or “a man who had been blind from birth” becomes in verse 8 “the man who used to sit and beg.” In verse 13 he is, “the man who formerly had been blind.” And in verse 17 he is simply, “the blind man.”

The man was healed and the neighbours, who knew him since birth, came to see. They saw a new person and they questioned him to how his eyes were opened. He told them the story. He invited his neighbours to see and hear the story.

We are called to invite the world, our neighbours, which means we go and find especially those forgotten and forsaken, overlooked and abandoned, those left to fend for themselves. To find his first witness, Jesus last week went to Samaria. With the man born blind, we are not really told where Jesus had to go to find the man the people in charge, throw out.

It happens to us when we try to help our neighbours. We listen to the words from society:

What will this person contribute to society?

What kind of results will this person actually be able to produce?

Aren't they just a drain on society anyway?

Don't they use up the assistance that is meant for hardworking folks?

Should we give monies to people who can prove their worth?

Should we make sure to take care of the ones who can pay it back?

This is not the definition of grace upon grace. Grace upon grace is not quantifiable. Grace upon grace is not an assessment program. Grace upon grace is not determined by budgets or checks and balances.

Grace upon grace is not based on membership lists. Grace upon grace is not based on synodical reports. Grace upon grace is not bound on measurable results. Grace upon grace is not behold to a mindset of scarcity. Grace upon grace is not defined by abandonment of hope. Grace upon grace is not controlled by those who lost faith in the promise of abundant life.

Grace upon grace is possible simply when Jesus is present.

All that Jesus asks is that we bring this presence to others.

Grace upon grace happens in those one-on-one moments.

Grace upon grace happens when you thought they were not paying attention.

Grace upon grace happens when someone comes up to you and says, “Thanks! I needed that.”

Grace upon grace happens when they feel it and you feel it at exactly the same time.

Friends, you answered the call because somehow, somewhere, at sometime, be it your baptism, or confirmation, an experience you had, you answered the call because you felt it. God found you, perhaps lost, perhaps rejected, perhaps waiting and wondering and said to you, do you believe? And you said yes!

For me it was when I was just a little lad, standing in a professor's office at old Willison Hall at Waterloo Seminary and hearing the words from my Great Uncle the pastor, "And I hope he comes here someday too." It was there I said yes to a Christ centered life. It was years later, when I was lost and wandering that God came again that I would yes again; to sharing the story with others of this great God we have; who is filled with love and grace for all of us.

My Friends in Christ. The man born blind was healed and told the story to others. Can't you hear him say, "Come and see!" I can.

When was the last time you said, "Come and see!"? When was the last time you had this excitement; this feeling; or heard God say, "I need your help to make sure that the world I love so much knows my love?"

Many times in the middle of life this is the first to fall away.

Lent is a time of reflection and conversation with God. God is waiting to hear from you. May the remaining days of this season be an opportunity for us to hear God's words, "do you believe?" So that; in the dawn of Easter morning and all of its confession our answer, "Lord, I believe," will sound louder than the trumpets. It will sound like it meant to sound – a true witness the grace upon grace that is our resurrection promise we get to live our here and now. 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.

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,  
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

## *STTLC Communiqué*

**In Our Prayers Today.....**The Harrington and Smith Family, Nancy Briscoe, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

**We are doing it again! Lenten Food Drive** – in support of St. Joseph’s Food Bank starts today and will continue until Easter. If you are able, please support this drive as the need is great. Watch as the table in the entrance grows with food as we support others. (Please check the expiry dates on the items.) Also, clean, empty egg cartons (one dozen size) are now being accepted as these can be re-used.

Please note.....cash donations should be given directly to them and not through offering envelopes. Thank you.

**Camp Lutherlyn Camper Sponsorships** – St. Timothy’s is sponsoring up to 5 children/youth for 1 Week each at Camp Lutherlyn this summer. You can obtain an Application Form from the church office and you can register your child online at [lutherlyncamp.ca](http://lutherlyncamp.ca) and then going to the Registration Page.

### **Lenten Services at St. Timothy’s**

Our Lenten journey with our Lord to the cross has begun. This season of Lent prepares us for our Easter celebrations. It reminds us that to rise with Jesus we have to first die with Jesus. Midweek Lenten Services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 pm. We will be joined by the congregation of The Parish of the Valley Anglican. Come, bring a friend and worship and then join in a time of coffee and fellowship in Jubilee Hall following the service.



### ***Annual Congregational Meeting***

**Jubilee Hall**

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**following our morning worship**

**Reports Available Today**

Purpose of the meeting:

- Approve Minutes from 2025 Congregational meetings
- Approve the 2026 Budget
- Approve the 2026 Investment Plan
- Transact other business as required

Thank you for your participation in the life of the congregation