

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 22nd, 2020

***“Church is not a place; it is who we are.
Once we realize this, we can be the church anywhere.”***

We gather to worship together, at this time, in different places. Bottom line, we are worshipping God, TOGETHER! This worship service has been pre-recorded. Worship materials have been sent out. If you are able, please watch the service via the Faith Lutheran Church Facebook page, or the Youtube link that was emailed to you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

When the world is dark and full of hate and fear, when we cannot see God
we will turn on the light.

When we cannot find our way back to love and peace
we will turn on the light.

When our vision dims due to the darkness within
we will turn on the light.

Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.
The light of the world is Jesus Christ.

Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.
Praise God, the light of the world!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain,
we would rather shut our eyes and be blind
than see things as they really are.
Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world,
and give us the strength to bring your light
to those who walk in darkness.
Help us see others as you see them,
and forgive us when we do not trust you enough

to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.
Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God,
and lead us in the footsteps
of the Light of the World,
who reveals your glory in his life,
his teachings, and his love.
In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness
and to guide us through our lives.
Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace.
The goodness and mercy of God
are given to us each and every day of our lives.
God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love,
and leads us to the place
that Christ has prepared for us.
Believe in your heart that God loves you
and forgives you.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

John 9:1-41

1As [Jesus] 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."

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.

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."

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Gracious God,

You are present among us now, wherever we are, as we gather to worship you. Help us to feel connected to one another as the body of Christ, and help us to find ways to be the church while in the midst of self-isolation and social distancing.

Loving Spirit, We pray for our community, nation, and world, as well continue to face uncertainties with COVID-19. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially those who are sick, those who are isolated, and those who live in fear. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to all medical providers and nursing home staff who are already exhausted. We pray for scientists and researchers who are working endlessly to curb the disease. We pray for our government leaders, especially our president and governor, who have to make difficult decisions in the weeks and months to come. We pray for all those who are facing unemployment. We pray that we experience the peace and comfort of Christ. Give us courage to face these days not with fear, but with compassion and concern, trusting that you are always with us.

We pray for all who are in any need. Those who pray to you for wholeness and healing and comfort. We especially pray for Lowell, Sally, Esther, Gene, Judy, Ryan, Johnny, Julie, Casey, Sue, Melanie, Marge, Joyce, Nancy, Jeffrey, Gene, Cloe, Shanna, Mae, Rose Marie, Stephanie, Bryan, Sue, Toni, Brian, Colin, James, Jan, Harvey, and the friends and family of Sidney Olson following his death

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. We lift up these prayers, those spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

I encourage you to listen to some music that fits in well with the worship theme of the day. If you are able, please look up:

In the Light- dcTalk

Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone- Chris Tomlin

Lord, I Need You- Chris Tomlin

In Christ Alone- Newsboys

Amazing Grace

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Christ, Be Our Light

God, Whose Almighty Word

Healer of our Every Ill