

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Thursday, March 19th
Sunday, March 22nd

An outline of today's sermon:

"HOW TO WALK THROUGH LIFE"

Ephesians 5:8-11 "For you once were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord... Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

INTRODUCTION – The Apostle Paul teaches us that when Christ comes into our lives, things change. The contrast between the before and the after pictures is as stark as light differs from darkness. As children of the light, we decry and expose the fruitless works of darkness. We produce good works, bathed in the light of Christ. Now, what to do with this deadly virus that so disrupted our lives? The answer lies in the Gospel and the Epistle for today!

1 – Jesus heals a blind man.

2 -Once he walked in darkness, now he lives in the light.

3 – The blind man did not do anything to merit healing.

4 – We once walked in darkness.

5 – We were brought into the light without any merit on our part.

6 – Jesus is the one who saves us.

7 – Jesus will provide every lesser blessing as well.

8 – The Corona Virus should not make us doubt God's love in Christ.

CONCLUSION – Having been created by God, we are assured of His divine providence. He will provide for our every need. But this is not all God did for us: He sent His one and only Son to die for us, that we may be saved. That is a far greater sign of God's love for us! Let no fear abide in our redeemed lives, no matter how bad things might look in our fight against a virus. Jesus overcame the virus that caused spiritual blindness and ultimately death. He will not leave us to fight Covid-19 alone! Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The Lord Feeds His People

The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God’s people “shall not hunger or thirst” (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
Who is blind but my servant,

or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Psalm

Psalm 142; antiphon: v. 5

With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.
I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.
When my spirit faints within me,
you know my way!
In the path where I walk
they have hidden a trap for me.
Look to the right and see:
there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me;
no one cares for my soul.
I cry to you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
Attend to my cry,
for I am brought very low!
Deliver me from my persecutors,
for they are too strong for me!
Bring me out of prison,
that I may give thanks to your name!
The righteous will surround me,
for you will deal bountifully with me.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Verse of the Day

Psalm 36:9

With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–7

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

SPECIAL MISSIONS for the first quarter missions will go to Concordia Publishing House in Brazil. CPH is an official agency of the Brazilian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Whose mission is to foster doctrinal unity by publishing only books that went through "doctrinal review". May the Lord bless our special gifts of gratitude.

CHURCH INFORMATION

CALLED CHILDCARE/PRESCHOOL TEACHER: We are beginning our search to find a Called full-time teacher to lead our childcare classroom as well as some possible preschool opportunities. This position will continue to build on our church and school relationship and provide Christian education to our smallest of children. We would like your recommendations and referrals of possible candidates who are Synodically-trained and meet the WI-licensed Early Childhood requirements. Please email the preschool at preschool@bslc-wi.org or Duane Graf by March 31 and provide the potential candidate's name and current position/location. Please mention why you believe this person will be a good fit for our congregation. Our committee welcomes all personal recommendations and will follow up with you as a part of the Call process. Please pray with us that God will guide our committee with wisdom, and that He will provide our congregation with the right person!

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

(In order to protect the privacy of our members, no names will be mentioned in our prayers)

We continue to pray for those who are in need of medical attention.

We also remember in our prayers the friends and relatives of our members.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.