



## Union Lutheran Church

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### 4th Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

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We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by \*)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Alas And did my Savior Bleed* Callahan

#### GATHERING

- \* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness LBW p. 77
- \* HYMN: *Alas and did my Savior Bleed* LBW# 98
- \* Greeting & Kyrie (*Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent.*) LBW p. 78-79
- \* Salutation LBW p. 82
- \* Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

C **Amen.**

#### WORD

Children's Message

Old Testament Lesson: **Isaiah 42:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." <sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>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? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

R Here ends the reading.

Psalm 95:1-9 *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>I cry to the LORD | with my voice;\*  
to the LORD I make loud | supplication.

**<sup>2</sup>I pour out my com- | plaint before him\*  
and tell him | all my trouble.**

<sup>3</sup>When my spirit languishes within me, you | know my path;\*  
in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a | trap for me.

**<sup>4</sup>I look to my right hand and find no | one who knows me;\*  
I have no place to flee to, and no one | cares for me.**

<sup>5</sup>I cry out to | you, O LORD;\*

I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land | of the living."

**<sup>6</sup>Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought | very low;\*  
save me from those who pursue me, for they are too | strong for me.**

<sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks | to your name;\*

when you have dealt bountifully with me, the righteous will gath- | er  
around me.

New Testament Lesson: **Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>... {F}or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

R Here ends the reading.

\* Lenten Verse ("*Return to the Lord...*")

LBW p. 83

\* Holy Gospel:

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As {Jesus} passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those

who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>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?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”]

**P** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *Glorifying God in the midst of Suffering*

Pastor Heidi Punt

\* HYMN: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*”

LBW # 535

\* Nicene Creed

LBW p. 84

\* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 85-86

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Building Fund Fund. During the month of March, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on the Spiritual Orphans Network (SON). Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Anthem: *A Lenten Meditation*

### MEAL

\* Offertory (“*What shall I render...*”) & Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 87

\* Great Thanksgiving & Sanctus

LBW p. 88-89

\* Words of Institution

LBW p 89

\* Lord’s Prayer

LBW p. 91

Lamb of God & Distribution of Communion

LBW p. 92

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the connection card and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

\* Post-Communion Canticle (“*Lord, now you let your servant...*”)

LBW p. 93

\* Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 94

### SENDING

\* Benediction

LBW p. 95

\* HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

LBW# 448

\* Sending

**P** You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

**C** **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**P** Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

**C** **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Holy God, we Praise Your name* Callahan

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (p. 77-97)

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### **Stewardship Update**

Worship & Holy Communion Attendance (3/12)	_____
Current Fund Offering received (3/12)	_____
Mid-Week Lenten Service (3/14)	38
Mid-Week Lenten Service (3/15)	5
2023 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$6,482.37

### **Those Serving in March**

**Acolytes:** Caylea Cline & Addison Queen

**Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, & Lay Readers:**

Jennifer & Scott Curlee, Cathy Painter

**Ushers:** Phil Cauble (HU), Ali Davis, Don Davis & Wayne Vellines,

**Offering Counters:**

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey & Vivian Sprinkle

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## **Union News**

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### **Sunday's Activities, March 19:**

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Children & Youth: The Faithful Friends ~ 1 Samuel 18:1-9; 20:18-42

Adult Sunday School Class: Jesus Talks with a Samaritan

John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41

**9:45 a.m.** Pastor Heidi is offering an Inquirer's Class designed to help you discern how you can connect by building relationships in ministry, in the congregation, and in your faith journey.

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Lessons for March 19: Isaiah 42:14-21; Psalm 142;

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**10:30 a.m.** CMR Bibles = noisy offering

Building & Repair Fund= loose offering

Son Ministries = Benevolence Focus

**2:00 p.m.** Church Council

**2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m.** Beginners Bells (B'n B)

*2023 Yearbooks will be available to pick up.*

*Please mark your name off the list.*

*Deadline for Newsletter articles.*

*During the season of Lent, branches will be used in place of Altar Flowers.*

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### **This Weeks' Activities:**

Tuesday, Mar. 21

5:30 p.m. Hymn Jam/ Guitar Practice

5:45 p.m. meal provided in the large Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

Wednesday, Mar. 22 10:30 a.m. Lenten Service  
12 noon lunch provided  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation  
6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
Thursday, March 23 6:30 p.m. Property, Cemetery & Columbarium  
Saturday, March 25. 9 a.m. Congregational Work Day

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**Sunday, March 26**

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Children & Youth: The King of Glory ~ 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Psalm 24

Adult Sunday School Class: Jesus Overpowers Legion  
Mark 5:1-13, 18-20

**9:45 a.m.** Pastor Heidi is offering an Inquirer's Class designed to help you discern how you can connect by building relationships in ministry, in the congregation, and in your faith journey.

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Lessons for March 26:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;

Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45 [46-53]

**10:30 a.m.** CMR Bibles noisy offering

**Called Meeting** of the **Congregation** will be held following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, March 26**. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and approve the 2023 Yearbook.

**4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** Luther League

Middle/High School Youth at Holy Trinity, Troutman

*During the season of Lent, branches will be used in place of Altar Flowers*

***Mid-Week Lenten Services***

*Lenten Supper in the large fellowship hall on **Tuesday, March 21**, at **5:45 p.m.** with service following at **6:30 p.m.***

***Wednesday, March 22**, at **10:30 a.m.** with lunch following.*

*The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14) We listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity.*

**Property, Cemetery, & Columbarium** Committee will meet **Thursday, March 23**, at **6:30 p.m.** to discuss property projects and other business brought forth.

Come join us for a **church workday** both inside and outside on **Saturday, March 25**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Bring your supplies, tools and anything you think could be useful. **Working together we can accomplish so much!**



## Congregational MEETING

Called Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 26. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and approve the 2023 Yearbook.

*A Learning Moment will also be provided: "Current Financial Reports will be available for the congregation to review. The congregation will have the opportunity to ask questions about the reports and how to interpret them"*  
(February 19, 2023 Council Meeting)

### **Mid-Week Lenten Services**

**Lenten Supper Tuesday, March 28, at 5:45 p.m.**  
with service following at **6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 29, at 10:30 a.m.** with lunch following.

*Paul (1 Timothy 1:15) We marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.*

Union will be providing **Chapel Time at Autumn Care on Wednesday, March 29, at 2:00 p.m.** All are invited to come join in on the fellowship, fun, and sharing God's Word!

*Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support, will be out of the office Thursday, March 30-Friday, March 31.*

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat Miller, and Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care), & Jean Ray (Brookdale)

**Homebound Members** – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller, & Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Brenda Cauble, Wayne Miller, Nancy Kesler, John Knight, Vernon Overcash, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Jean Ray (recovering at Wilbert & Carol Lyerly, 5017 Charmapag Ave., Charlotte, NC 28211), & Debbie Rinehart

**Continual Prayer** – Paul & Nancy Baker (Genevieve Baker's parents), Evonne Batten, Nancy Ballew (Kat Clifton's mother), Pastor George Bradshaw (Pineridge Baptist Church), Bill Broadway, Janet Dunning (Doris Shepherd's sister), Glenn Eagle, Tommy and Joan Kerns, Garrin Kluttz (Jean & James Kluttz grandson), Pat Kluttz, Glenn & Betty Sue Lowder, Della Morgan (Pam Vellines' mother), Dusty Morgan, Sr. Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Danny "Chocolate" Myers (Frank Merrell's friend), William Page, Effie Vellines, Union Fire Department #76, Haiti (gangs), Nigerian Christians, & those affected by natural or political disasters

**Confirmation Students:** Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Bailey Wilhelm, & Lucas Wilhelm

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### How Can You Serve?

*The Good Timers & Sunday School are sponsoring a collection of food to assist **Rowan Helping Ministries Child Friendly Foods** (when children are out of school). Please donate: individual Mac 'n Cheese, Fruit Cups, granola bars, anything that a child can open and heat in the microwave by themselves.*

*Please place donations on the pew outside of the church office.*

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### DID YOU KNOW

... this spot in the weekly news lifts up different parts of Luther's Small Catechism?

Being Lutheran is a very specific expression of the Christian Church Body.



### OUR MISSION:

*Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded~  
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)*

### OUR VISION:

*One Relationship at a Time*

### BE OUR GUEST

*Can't wait to see what God can do!*

