



You have seen Him

John 9:37

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

Prelude		
Gathering Hymn	“Lamb of God”	C Hymn #302
Announcement		
Favorite Hymn	“Just As I Am”	G Hymn #296
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Postlude		
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Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Michele Breyley in memory her parents, Gene & Pat Morral.

This afternoon God Squad will be frosting cookies at Carlisle (Trustwell Living) at 2 PM. All are invited to help or just visit with the residents. St Paul has several member residing there.

Wednesday morning Bible Study for March 18 has been cancelled and will resume March 25.

Wednesday Evening Lenten meals are at 6 PM with services following at 7 PM.

If you would like to donate candy or small items such as pencils, erasers, stickers etc. for the children's Easter treat bag and egg hunt, there are baskets on each coat rack. Thank you.

Cemetery Clean up will be March 28. Please remove anything you want saved before that date, also do not put any new items on until after the March 28.

If anyone wants for reimbursed for providing food for the Lenten Meals, see Susie Sutherland. It will be paid by the God Squad account.

God Squad meeting for March 26 has been moved to March 19 due to LifeWise gathering at Crestline on the 26th.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Cookies at Carlisle 2 PM
Monday	Dartball Make up game at Trinity Lutheran Crestline 7:30
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Lenten Meal 6 PM Lenten Worship 7 PM
Thursday	God Squad 7 PM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

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Pastor Brodie Taphorn
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The Light Gives Light

The book of Proverbs says that “the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day” while “the way of the wicked is like deep darkness” (Proverbs 4:18). Jesus is “Light of Light” as we confess in the Nicene Creed. He shines in the midst of a perverse and deeply darkened world so that all flesh might see the glory of God.

He heals a blind man on the Sabbath. The disciples quibble over the question of the cause of blindness: “Who sinned, the blind man or his parents?” They are oblivious to what the Lord is about to accomplish. The Pharisees are more concerned that Jesus has broken a regulation safeguarding the Sabbath. Ironically, the disciples and the Pharisees are blinded by the Light! Their impaired vision cannot comprehend that Jesus is “the true light, which gives light to everyone” (John 1:9).

It is finally the blind man who sees and confesses Jesus as the Lord that He is. Intoxicated by the righteousness of the Law, the Pharisees cannot see, and their hearts are veiled (see 2 Corinthians 3:12–18). But with His words and touch, Jesus opens vacant eyes to see, and a man born blind walks in the Light that cannot be overcome by the darkness.

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illuminated with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face (LSB 704:1). Amen.

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PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: Jesus brought mud, washing, and His Word together to give sight to a man who was born blind. Then Jesus used His Word to let the man know whom he was looking at. The gift of physical sight was only a preamble to the spiritual sight the man needed to see the Son of Man. Jesus is still granting us the eyes of faith to see His work. He unites His Word with water to wash away our sin. He brings His Word together with bread and wine to give us His very body and blood, given and shed for us. Jesus continues to open eyes by faith, helping people see Him at work and delivering them forgiveness of sins and eternal life.





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Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who 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? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Psalm 142

¹I cry to the LORD | with my voice;*
to the LORD I make loud | supplication.

²**I pour out my com- | plaint before him*
and tell him | all my trouble.**

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

⁴**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.**

⁵I cry out to | you, O LORD;*

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

⁶**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.**

⁷Bring 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.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸... {F}or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

¹As {Jesus} passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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." ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the

saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." 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. ¹⁵So 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." ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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." 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 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." ²²(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.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. 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?" ²⁸And 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, “Why, this is an amazing 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 if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

Lessons for Next Week: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;
Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45 [46-53]

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For Abundant Mercy

Eternal God, Lord of mercy, you continue to pour out upon us grace upon grace, blessing upon blessing; yet too often we fail to recognize your blessings and our need for your grace. Grant us the grace to set our minds on things above where Christ is seated at your right hand and for Christ's sake show us your abundant mercy. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Lent

Through the transforming work of your most Holy Spirit, keep us mindful during this Lenten season of Jesus' journey to the cross. Help us to contemplate the magnitude of your costly grace, teach us to value that which is of surpassing worth, and reveal to us the new things you are doing in our midst. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those in Prison

God of justice, our Lord, Jesus, came to proclaim liberty to the captive and release to those in bandage. We pray for those who are incarcerated, that they may experience your mercy, so that their lives would be transformed and set free from the chains of sin. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Recovery and Healing

Almighty and merciful God, your Son stretched out his hand to heal the sick; bring sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, hope to the despairing, and forgiveness to all. Reach out your hand to touch and hold those for whom we pray, that they may experience your healing power. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.