

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 herbage; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths 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 will do, and I will not forsake them. ¹⁷They shall be turned back and utterly put to shame— those who trust in carved images, who say to cast images, “You are our gods.” ¹⁸Listen, you that are deaf; and you that are blind, look up and see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like my messenger whom I send? Who is blind like my dedicated one, or blind like 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 the sake of his righteousness, to magnify his teaching and make it glorious.

Psalm: Psalm 142

¹With my voice I cry to the LORD; with my voice I make supplication to the LORD.

²I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

³When my spirit is faint, you know my way. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴Look on my right hand and see— there is no one who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for me.

⁵I cry to you, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

⁶Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

⁷Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For once 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.”

Gospel: John 9:1-41

⁹As he 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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

<p>Today: March 15th Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:15- Adult SS/Youth SS 9:30-Coffee Fellowship 10:30-Worship w/Communion 11:00-Potluck 6:00-Bethny Prayer Group 4:00-4-H Group Mtg @ BLC Monday: March 16th 7:00-Handbell Rehearsal Tuesday: March 17th 8:30-Prayer Group 9:30-Morning Coffee @ BLC 7:00-Confirmation Wednesday: March 18th 11:30-Lenten Luncheon @ UMC 5:30-Lenten Soup Supper @BLC 6:30-Lenten Evening Service @BLC</p>	<p>Sunday: March 22th Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:15- Adult SS /Youth SS 9:30-Coffee Fellowship 10:30-Worship 6:00-Bethany Prayer Group</p>
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Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Marie Rogers, Jeanette Jardee, Shannon Hersom, Pat Boughey, Mary Roat, Todd & Elizabeth Wood, Jerry Runneberg, Myles Pedersen, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Lectors: Shirley Kruse
Ushers: March 15-Rich & Marilyn Ehlers
 March 22-Julian Johnsen Family

Acolytes: Bethany Youth
Weekly Budget Needs: 2817.00
Faith Promise Worship \$585.00 Lent 22
Sunday School \$5.00 Youth SS 8 Adult SS 0
Lent \$165.00 Lenten Soup \$29.00

Birthdays: March 21-Jens Johnsen

***Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.

An asterisk () indicates when to stand (as able)*

ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL
 WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
 *CONFESSION P.56
 *HYMN *Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound* LBW 448
 *GREETING P.57
 *KYRIE P.57
 *PRAYER OF THE DAY *(bulletin-in unison)*
Lenten Reading Shirley Kruse
FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:14-21
Psalm: Psalm 142 *(bulletin – responsively)*
SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
 Lenten Sentence P.63
 *THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17
 *GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
SERMON Pastor David Klappenbach
HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* CH 562
 Nicene Creed P64
 *PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Leader: “...Lord, in your mercy.”
Response: “hear our prayer.”
 *THE PEACE
 OFFERING P.75
 *THE GREAT THANKSGIVING P.68
 *WORDS OF INSTITUTION P.69
 *THE LORD’S PRAYER P.71
 *LAMB OF GOD P.72
 DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
 *BLESSING P.72
 *POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE P.73
 *BENEDICTION P.74
 *HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* insert
 *DISMISSAL



March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT
 TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

***We are a
 Christ-Centered
 Mission-Driven
 Traditionally-Grounded
 Congregationally-Focused
 Church.***