

## **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

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Sacramento, CA 95823  
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[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)



**March 19th, 2023**

**Brian Hiortdahl, Pastor**  
[pastorbrian@slelca.org](mailto:pastorbrian@slelca.org)

**Jane Fanucci, Choir Director/Organist**  
[jef100bicen@yahoo.com](mailto:jef100bicen@yahoo.com)

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19th, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Prelude**

Jacob Wilson

**GATHERING**

**Welcome**

*The welcome concludes:*

This is the day the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it! - Psalm 118:24**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
 God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
 so that all may receive life.  
 This promise is for you!  
 God embraces you with divine mercy,  
 + forgives you in Christ's name,  
 and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand as able for the entrance hymn.*

### **Hymn** Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness #843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

*(Pew Bible page 304)*

### **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Second Reading**  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Ephesians 5:8-14  
*(Pew Bible page 1244)*

**Choir Anthem**

God So Loved the World

**Gospel**

John 9:1-41  
*(Pew Bible page 1139)*

*Because of the length of today's gospel, please remain seated.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pastor: As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.  
His disciples asked him,

Choir Side: 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he  
was born blind?'

Pastor: Jesus answered,

Pulpit Side: 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was  
born blind so that God's works might be revealed  
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.'

Pastor: When he had said this, he spat on the ground and  
made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the  
man's eyes, saying to him,

Pulpit Side: 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam'

Pastor: (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and  
came back able to see. The neighbors and those who  
had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

Choir Side: 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?'

Ladies: Some were saying, 'It is he.'

Gentlemen: Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.'

Pastor: He kept saying,

Lector: 'I am the man.'

Pastor: But they kept asking him,

All: **'Then how were your eyes opened?'**

Lector: '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.'

All: **'Where is he?'**

Lector: 'I do not know.'

Pastor: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them,

Lector: 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.'

Gentlemen: Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.'

Ladies: But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?'

Pastor: And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

All: **'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.'**

Lector: 'He is a prophet.'

Pastor: 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 and asked them,

All: **'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?'**

Pastor: His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but 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.' His 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. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

All: **'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.'**

Lector: 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

All: **'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'**

Lector: '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?'

Pastor: Then they reviled him, saying,

All: **'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'**

Lector: 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'

All: **'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?'**

Pastor: And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

Pulpit Side: 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'

Lector: 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.'

Pulpit Side: 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.'

Lector: 'Lord, I believe.'

Pastor: And he worshipped him. Jesus said,

Pulpit Side: 'I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'

Pastor: Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

Choir Side: 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'

Pastor: Jesus said to them,

Pulpit Side: 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## Children's Message

*Children are invited to leave the worship service after the Children's Message for "Sunday School."*

## Sermon Message

Pastor Carl Hoppman

*You are invited to stand as able.*

## Hymn of the Day      Amazing Grace,      #779 How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## Prayers of Intercession

*Each prayer petition concludes:*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:* We lift our prayers to you, O God,  
**trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew  
your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## MEAL

### Offering

*This is a great time to remember your offering and place it in your reach so that you may add it to the collection plate as it is passed.*

*Thank you for supporting St Luke's ministry.*

*As the offertory music begins, you are invited to stand as able.*

### Offertory      Create in Me a Clean Heart      #186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a  
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,  
**receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

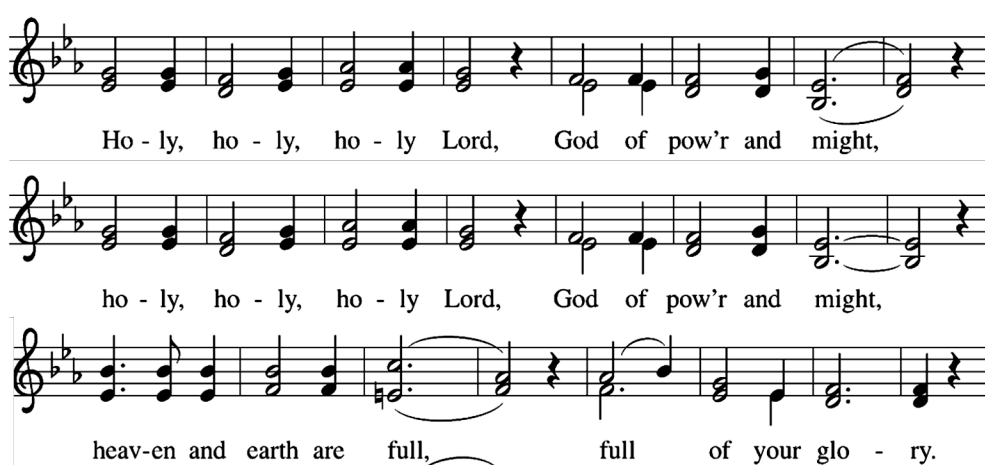
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### Communion

*Please be seated until the ushers direct you forward.*

*Believing that Jesus Christ is present in Communion and to receive him is to receive the forgiveness of sin, all are invited to the Lord's Supper. If you don't yet partake of the bread and wine, you are invited forward to receive a blessing. If you choose not to come forward and would like to use one of the individual Communion packets, please open your Communion packet and receive Communion.*

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Life-giving God,

**You have fed us with heaven's perfect food, the very presence of Jesus Christ. Send us now to be what we have received, that all creation might know your love and sing your praise now and always. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **Benediction**

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

*Please stand as able.*

**Sending Hymn**      Be Thou My Vision #793

*(printed on next page)*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Jacob Wilson

### **Thank You, Pastor Carl!**

We are delighted to welcome back Pastor Carl Hoppman to lead worship today while Pastor Brian is away for his mother's funeral.

#### **Worship Assistants**

Altar Care: Gail Weber  
Greeter: Laura Sondrini  
Prelude: Jacob Wilson  
Postlude: Jacob Wilson  
Song Leader: Karen Linfor  
Reader: Sarah Madison  
Psalm Reader: Stephanie Espinoza  
Prayer Leader: Kelly Boyer

#### **This Week at St. Luke's March 19th - 26th, 2023**

Sunday	Holy Communion	10:30am
Monday	Soul Sisters RM 4	Noon-2pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	10am Zoom
	Church Council	6:00pm
Wednesday	Soup Supper	6:00pm
	<i>I was in prison...</i>	6:30pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Thursday	What Does This Mean?	7:00pm
Sunday	Holy Communion	10:30am

#### **OPPORTUNITIES at ST. LUKE'S**

**Easter Candy Donations** - We are seeking candy donations to make Easter goody bags to pass out. Donations may be left in the Narthex. Easter goody bags will be assembled following church service on **April 2nd**.

**Community Concerns Board** - Will be collecting items for "Blessing Bags" for the months of March and April. Personal hygiene and food item bins will be provided in the Narthex.

**Wednesdays in Lent - We Want to See Jesus** Join us each Wednesday in March for soup supper at **6:00pm** and a guest ministry partner sharing a profile of Jesus in our midst from **6:30-7:00pm**. To contribute soup, please sign up in the narthex. This week: *I was in prison...*

**Church Work Day - Saturday, April 1st - 9:00am- 12:00pm**

All members welcome. Bring a friend. Help us beautify the inside and outside of St. Luke's Church property for the Easter and spring season. Donuts and coffee will be provided. Your Humble Servant, *Kelly Boyer*

**Easter Lilies** - Easter Lilies will adorn the Altar and Resurrection Cross



If you would like to donate \$15 toward the purchase of an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the Easter Lily form and enclose it in a pew envelope along with your donation.



Thank You!

**Holy Week at St. Luke's** - Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us in worship the holiest week of the year:

**April 2nd** - Palm Sunday      10:30am

**April 6th** - Maundy Thursday 7:00pm

**April 7th** - Good Friday      7:00pm

**April 9th** - Easter Sunday      10:30am

**Maundy Thursday Sign-ups** - Maundy Thursday service will be held April 6th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. During this somber service, the altar will be stripped. Volunteers are needed to help. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Please consider helping! — Shirley Prouty

**Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles**—All are welcome to join us on Zoom for a Bible Study on the book of Acts Tuesday mornings **starting at 10 am**. We will be using "N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide" on "Acts", available for \$9.99 + tax on Amazon. The series is 24 weeks long. To receive the Zoom link, please contact the church office. Thank you. - *Marlene Kiser*

**\*Friendly Reminder\*** All April News & Views articles and information need to be submitted by **March 25th** to the church e-mail at **office@slelca.org**