

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking outrage from religious authorities. The Pharisees interrogate the man who was miraculously healed, but disbelieve his testimony and drive him away. In compassion, Jesus seeks out the man again and invites him to place his faith in him. As we face a time of anxiety and uncertainty we are reminded that God is in control and He is the healing God of compassion and grace. We cling to His grace and compassion now more than ever.

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS (837)

*Refrain:*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]*

*Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]*

*All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. [Refrain]*

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. [Refrain]*

*Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. [Refrain]*

*So shall our song of triumph ever be;  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]*

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:  
People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

**SERMON HYMN: AMAZING GRACE**

*Amazing grace--how sweet the sound--  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!*

*The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.*

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.*

**SERMON**

**THE PRAYERS 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**

**CLOSING HYMN: GO MY CHILDREN WITH MY BLESSING (922)**

*Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.*

*Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river*

*I have made you mine forever.*

*Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.*

*Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.*

*Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.*

*Here you heard my dear Son's story;*

*Here you touched him, saw his glory.*

*Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;*

*Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.*

*Here my Spirit's power filled you;*

*Here his tender comfort stilled you.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.*

*I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;*

*I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;*

*I the Lord will be your Father,*

*Savior, Comforter, and Brother.*

*Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.*

**THE BLESSING**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make  
His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The  
Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**People:** ***Amen, Amen, Amen!***