

Peace Lutheran Church

“Peace Through Christ”

Rob Rebensal, Pastor Pastor Mike Schultze, Director of Youth
71 Loma Drive - Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 482-3313 office@peacecamarillo.com
www.peacecamarillo.com

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2020

As We Gather With the granting of sight to a man born blind, today our Lenten journey teaches us that forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life make a difference in our lives as great as night and day, sunshine and darkness. It is no less a miracle that Christ gives once spiritually blind sinners the vision of His glory and truth. By the miracle of faith in Jesus we not only see light but even become light, reflecting the light of the love and salvation that are in Jesus Christ. We are called to bring that liberating light to others by our testimony and confession of the great grace God has for all people in Christ.

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Public domain

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: With my voice I cry out to the LORD;

People: with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

Pastor: I pour out my complaint before Him;

People: I tell my trouble before Him.

Pastor: With You is the fountain of life;

People: in Your light do we see light. *Psalm 142:1-2; 36:9*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Having gathered to hear God's Word and receive the light of salvation and wisdom, we must first confess that, on our own, we take part in the unfruitful works of darkness because of our sins. Apart from Christ we are blind to both God's wrath and His mercy and grace for sinners. Come near to Him now so that He may have mercy on us and give us the light of His forgiveness and life.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Pastor: Merciful Father,

People: Out of the darkness of our sin and our weariness we call to You, O Lord. For we desire to see the light of Your grace and receive the enlightenment of Your truth. We plead for the forgiveness of our sin and lift our eyes to see Your salvation for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: "The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down." *Psalm 146:8*

God hears the confession of a repentant heart. In Christ, and for His sake, all your sins have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain
In Him there is no dark - ness at all.

The night and the day are both a - like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

© 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011550.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+THE WORD OF GOD+

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 42:14-21

(The Lord turns darkness into light.)

- 14 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.
- 15 I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,^[a]
and dry up the pools.
- 16 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.
- 17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
- 18 Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
- 19 Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,^[b]
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
- 20 He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
- 21 The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 5:8-14
(Walking in the light.)

⁸ For 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), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"The Gift of Love"



1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, And have the gift
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, And striv - ing so
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, Our spir - its long



to all in - spire, And have not love, my words are
 my love pro - fess, But not be given by love with -
 to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery



vain, As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 - in, The pro - fit soon turns strange - ly thin.
 deed; By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

HOLY GOSPEL. John 9:1-41

(Sight for a man born blind.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

9 As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. **4** We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **6** 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 **7** and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

8 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?” **9** Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” **10** So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” **11** 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.” **12** They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14** Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15** 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.” **16** 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. **17** 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.”

18 The Jews^[a] 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 **19** and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” **20** His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. **21** 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.” **22** (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus^[b] to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) **23** Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 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.” **25** He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” **26** They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” **27** 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?” **28** And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. *(Cont’d)*

²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ 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. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”^[d] ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt;^[d] but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.
 People: Praise to You O Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace”

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

© 1991 Editorial Concordia. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011550.
 Public domain

MESSAGE A Lot Of What We See Depends On What We're Looking For:
 Jesus Can Be Quite A Sight For Sore Souls
 John 9:1-41

HYMN "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those



heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You



light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

Public domain

CONFESSION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

All: 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.

OFFERING *Please see A Word About Giving in the announcements*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine
upon you and be gracious unto You. The Lord look upon You with
favor and + give you His peace.

People: Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

© 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011550. Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PLACE OF IN PERSON WORSHIP, we will be recording an abbreviated Sunday service each week that you will be able to watch on our website. We will also prepare a bulletin that you can download from the website so you can follow along. We are working on the best way to get that up and going as soon as this week.

In Romans 13 Paul urges believers to respect the governmental authorities God has allowed to be in place. In an attempt to “flatten the curve” of the Corona virus and watch out for your safety, we are doing our part as citizens of the kingdom of this world to comply with the President’s request to avoid meeting in groups larger than ten for fifteen days. Council will revisit this at the end of the month.

Cooperation by the members will be essential if this is to be successful. Here is what Council decided:

1. No worship services or midweek services and Soup Suppers until at least April 5th, Palm Sunday, subject to re-evaluation.
2. No in person meetings or Bible studies will held during this trial period.
3. The church office will be closed to visitors during this time, but we will be answering the phone.

A WORD ABOUT GIVING.

People have asked, if they are not able to attend services, how can they continue to support the congregation with their regular giving? Whether we are holding regular Sunday worship services or not, the expenses will continue. We ask you to remember this is not a giving holiday. We have easy options.

1. You can mail you offering to the church or
2. You can sign up for Vanco giving. Vanco is a convenient way to give directly from your bank account or credit card. There is information about it on our website, or if it is easier for you, you can call them and they will walk you through the process on the phone. You will need to know the church address, 71 Loma Drive, Camarillo, and have your account information handy. Vanco moves your offering from your account directly into ours. We have been using this service for some time now and people have found it to be easy and one less thing to worry about.

You can sign up on our website, peacecamarillo.com, or call 1-800-675-7430. Choose option #1 for client services and they will help you get started.

Council also decided, to be good stewards of the resources we have available, that all major projects around the church will be put on hold for the present time.

If you have a special need we can help you with, please call the church office.

Please keep the nation and all those in authority in your prayers, along with front line healthcare workers. We will get through this together, because we never go through anything alone.

Remember in Your Prayers

For health and healing: Edith Anderson, Lili Baehr, Christy Burckhard (Gary & Karen Taylor's sister-in-law), Mrs. Cheung (Veronica Lee's friend), Crystal (Phil Deck's niece), Remi Chatelain (Carol Yung's friend), Marshall Denninger, Dwayne Field, Bruce Fraser, Rory Hall (Jim & Lily Mainland's granddaughter), Ken Haugrud, Damon Hermann (friend of Greg Olewiler), Jim Hogan (Robin Schmidt's brother-in-law), Vickie Hutter, Jan Irwin (friend of David Zinger), Karen Johnson, Mickey Kohut, Dawn Logan (Pat Massey's niece), Mrs. Mai, (friend of Greg Olewiler), Carmene Meyer, Seza Mirzarian (Phil Hamilton's son-in-law's aunt), Ken Nipstad, Linda Packham, Jim Pedersen, Hedy Pein, Ingrid Poehler, Llewyn Rae Spencer (infant grandson of Gary & Char Spencer), Leslie Stenke, Jon & Renee Volpei (Connie Morris' son & daughter-in-law), Carol Yung, Sue Zinger.

For peace and comfort:

Allen Burckhard, as he cares for his wife Christy and their children.

Pray for all military men and women especially: Jacob Chiles, Andrew Geib, Daniel Gross, Michael Hanson, Brian Miller, Kevin Palos, Kevin Schleicher, Stephen Volpei, Amy Waddell, Lucas Wentlandt. Also remember their families in your prayers.