

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 22, 2020 10:00 a.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Lord Christ, open our eyes  
**People: to see clearly the light of the world.**  
Pastor: Holy Spirit, illumine our minds  
**People: to perceive God's glory shining among us.**  
Pastor: Almighty God, prepare our hearts  
**People: to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.**

## OPENING HYMN

*Healer of Our Every Ill* (verses 1 and 3)

*Refrain: Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

*You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.*

*Refrain*

*Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Wonder-working God, forgive us when preconceived notions cloud our vision and blind us to your activity in our lives. We watch for signs of your glory in the successful and strong, in pious acts and answered prayers, in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled. But you make yourself known in unexpected ways: in shepherd boys lifted to the throne and outcasts returned to community; in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence, and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace, through water and mud, and a table prepared with sacrificial love. We long for a salve that relieves our stubborn focus on inconsequential questions, and for water that heals our blindness to revelations of your love. Open our eyes, illumine our minds, and prepare our hearts, to receive your amazing grace...(silent prayer)**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 23

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 9:1-41

## SERMON

"Spiritual Blindness"

## PASTORAL PRAYER (INCLUDING 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO GIVE

## 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.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

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

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*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.*

## BENEDICTION

## BLESSED BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

*Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.*

## POSTLUDE