

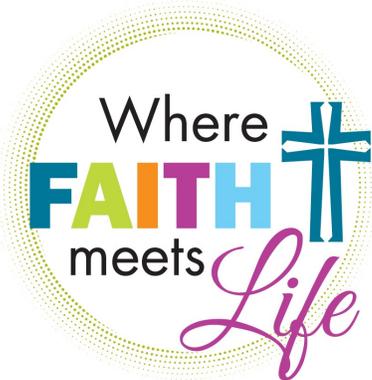
Welcome to worship at **Augustana** Lutheran Church

February 11, 2018, 8:30 & 9:45 am

Liturgical Season: Time After Epiphany

What does this mean?

This month, the church calendar makes a powerful turn. The green of growth during the Epiphany season ends in celebratory white on the Sunday we mark the Transfiguration of Our Lord. We come ultimately to Lent, the forty-day season of preparation for Easter. Our purple paraments remind us of the penitence and sacrifice to which God calls us in this season. Christ invites us to prepare our hearts and lives in holiness and humility.



We're glad you're worshipping with us today! As you enter worship please honor the holiness and prayerfulness of the Sanctuary.

We love having children in worship! If your child needs a break, our nursery is staffed during the 9:45 am service. Large print bulletins and listening assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Today's Theme: Seeing

John tells us an interesting and difficult story of one man's journey from darkness into the light, from blindness to sight and from not knowing to seeing and believing in Jesus.

Prelude

Pastorale Melancolique
Merilee Klemp, oboist

Emile Desportes

Announcements

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as His people

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

ELW pg. 94

Opening Hymn

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW #617

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.

Kyrie

ELW pg. 138

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

ELW pg. 139

The Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Hear 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.**

Traditional Lutheran worship follows a liturgy, meaning "work of the people." It is a style of worship we participate in together and dates back to the earliest Christians who combined the synagogue's hymns and scripture readings with the celebration of Holy Communion. Nearly every portion ties to passages in the Bible. Although this worship format has existed for centuries, the music and language within it speak to us today.

WORD

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song

Anthem (8:30)

We Come to You for Healing, Lord
Agape Choir, Caroline Wallace, soloist

Schram

(9:45)

Praise His Holy Name!
Senior Choir

Hampton

These weekly readings come from an organized list of biblical selections called a lectionary. Augustana has used the Narrative Lectionary (NL) since 2011. Developed by professors at Luther Seminary the NL follows a four-year cycle starting in September and ending in May each year. We begin reading from the Old Testament in the fall and move to one of the four Gospels between Christmas and Easter. The NL concludes with readings from Acts and the New Testament letters. The NL connects congregations across the globe who read the same texts each Sunday.

Lesson

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "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." 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, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (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, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." 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, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some 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. So 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." 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, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 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, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "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." The man answered, "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." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Questions for Reflection

Which one of the characters do you connect with in this story and why?

How were your eyes opened in order for you to see and believe that Jesus is your personal savior and the Savior of the world?

What are you blind to in your life that needs healing and how might today's story move you to wash the mud off your eyes so that you can see and worship Jesus?

Hymn of the Day*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

ELW #779

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into

heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge

the living and the dead.

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

 RESPONSE

A time to respond to God with our gifts and prayers

The Meal portion of the liturgy begins with two elements: the offering and setting the table. The text of the offertory song focuses on either our grateful response to the gifts of God and/or God's grace to be received in Holy Communion. Generally, we use the text from Psalm 51:10-12 ("Create in me. . .") to offer our hearts to God, fully aware that we need God's mercy to restore our hearts to receive salvation. When we celebrate Holy Communion we use "Let the vineyards" to focus on God's grace given to us through the bread and wine.

Offering*Nocturne*

M. Roesgen-Champion

*Merilee Klemp, oboist***Offertory Response***Create in Me*

ELW #186

Liturgy for Healing

After each portion of the Liturgy:

In your great mercy,

hear us, O God.

God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain us all. Drive away our suffering, give us firm hope, and strengthen our trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing, we proclaim the good news that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to offer yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

The congregation may be seated.

Laying on of Hands and Anointing

Those who wish to receive the anointing may come forward to the altar

at the direction of the ushers.

Music for Meditation and Prayer*Elegy for Organ and Oboe*

Alec Wyton

The Prayers

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

SENDING

The Holy Spirit sends us into the world

Benediction

The God of all grace, who has been revealed to us in Christ, show you mercy and ✠ bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God

Closing Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW #673

Postlude

Toccata on "Amazing Grace"

arr. C. Pardini

✠ ✠ ✠

The church service ends, but our service in the world does not. Lent prepares us to hear the good news of Easter. God calls us from this room out into the world. Empowered by God, we help others hear the good news through our loving words, faithful acts of justice, and mercy to all people.

Today's Scripture is taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Mark Aune

Pastor Megan Torgerson

Intern Kiara Jorgenson

Dr. Kristina Langlois, Organist

Kathy Andrews, Choir Director

Lay Readers: 8:30 Kris Deyo

John Ahlstrom

9:45 Ginny Rudolph

Anne-Marie Ericson

Acolytes: 9:45 Tyler Janey

Evan Sanford

Following worship we invite you to stop at the Information Center. It is staffed with individuals eager to answer your questions.

You are welcome to pick up our monthly newsletter, Augustana Life, at the Information Kiosk in the Narthex. It is also available online at augustana.com, click on RESOURCES.

Augustana uses the Narrative Lectionary as a basis for our weekly Bible readings. Next week we will read John 11:1-44

Augustana
Lutheran Church

1400 SOUTH ROBERT STREET
WEST ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55118
651.457.3373
WWW.AUGUSTANA.COM
Member of the St Paul Area Synod and ELCA