
Fourth Sunday in Lent

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.



March 22, 2020

8:30 a.m. ~ 10:30 a.m.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue North ~ New Hope, MN 55427
Phone 763-545-1647 www.holynativity.net Email: office@holynativity.net

Our Mission & Ministry: "Grounded in Christ's love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God's love through worship, service, and fellowship."

8:30 & 10:30 AM Sunday Worship - September to May
9:30 AM Education for All - Sunday School, Youth & Sunday Forums
9:30 AM Sunday Coffee and Fellowship Time - In the Fellowship Hall

Summer Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday Worship – Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend
10:30 AM Fellowship Time (after worship)

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex or by asking an usher.

Hearing Assist Earphones are available in the narthex for use during services.

If you are a **visitor**, wish to make a **prayer request**, or have **other pastoral needs**, please fill out a **VISITOR/PRAYER REQUEST CARD** located on the back of the pew, place in the offering plate or give to an usher. We also invite you to sign the **guest book** in the narthex.

Worship Activity Bags and Folders for younger worshipers are located outside the worship area, to your left. We encourage the use of the paper in these bags for coloring and drawing purposes.

Our NURSERY, for children ages 3 & under, is located in north hall...It is staffed throughout the Sunday morning activities. If need arises, all families are welcome to use it. "If you are *stressed* by holding your child in worship, please use the nursery. If you are *blessed* by holding your child in worship – please do so!"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of each month. Please be assured this meal is open to all who are present...members, guests and friends...in this worshipping community.

Four Restrooms are located outside the worship area, to your right (toward the Fellowship Hall). A baby-changing table is located in the Fellowship Hall restroom marked "Koala Kare."

Please see the schedule at the back of this bulletin for this week's activities.

Staff Members:

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ashley Updegraff, Associate Pastor
Iver Hubert, Director of Music & Worship
Lisa Baker, Organist & Communications Coordinator
Kristen Chamberlain, Sunday School Director
Linda Lien, Congregational Care Coordinator & Funeral Coordinator
Wendy Grimes, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Wiblishauser, Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up
Kara Holt, Financial Coordinator
Amy Laite, Sunday Nursery Coordinator
Tawn Hanson, Wedding Coordinator
Brittany Anderson, Director of Week-Day Childcare Center (hncccc.org)

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray, and reflect on why we are here.

GATHERING MUSIC

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Arr. Carter

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C: Amen.

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

P: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of †Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

C: Amen.

WE PRAISE GOD

GATHERING HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

Hymnal #793

(1-2)

*1) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*2) Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tow’r,
Raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.*

This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first two were the death of his four-year-old son and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the SS Ville du Havre. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died. Bliss called his tune Ville du Havre, from the name of the stricken vessel. - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Is_Well_with_My_Soul

GOD'S WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING

1st Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out 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 mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... Congregation: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE*"Return to God "*

Red Folder Pg. 5

Congregation:

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the
Source of grace and mer - cy; Come seek the ten - der
faith - ful - ness of God.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a five-line staff with lyrics underneath. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with a final cadence and a repeat sign.

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John... Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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 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, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ 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?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ 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." 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 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." ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ 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 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 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." ²² 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. 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 they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 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, "Here is an astonishing 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 he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ 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." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord... **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"Knowledge is Power"

Rev. Ashley Updegraff

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence.*)

WE RESPOND

APOSTLES' CREED

Hymnal Pg. 105

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

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

P: Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen**

MISSION HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”
(3-4)

Hymnal #793

*3) Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*4) Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Arr. Marianne Kim

WEEKLY INFORMATION

Sunday, March 22nd Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:30am Worship (Online) 1:00pm Word of Life (Russian) Worship 6:00pm Word of Life (FH)	Thursday, March 26th 7:00pm Word of Life Worship
Monday, March 23rd	Friday, March 27th 9:00am – 11:00am PRISM Van here to pick up food donations 7:00pm Word of Life Choir & School
Tuesday, March 24th 2:30pm Staff Meeting	Saturday, March 28th
Wednesday, March 25th 11:15am HNCCCC Chapel	Sunday, March 29th Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:30am Worship (Online) 1:00pm Word of Life (Russian) Worship 6:00pm Word of Life (FH)
PRISM: March is FoodShare month! The PRISM van will be at Holy Nativity on Friday, March 27 th from 9:00am – 11:00am to pick up and gather our donated food items! Thank you! March’s Mission Offering is designated to PRISM.	

HOLY NATIVITY INFORMATION...

All upcoming events have been cancelled or postponed at this time, including the Palm Sunday Breakfast & Silent Auction. More details to come.

At this time, Pastors and staff are still available during standard office hours (Monday – Thursday, 9:00am – 3:00 pm, and Fridays 9:00am – 1:00pm). Please call the church office (763-545-1647) to get in touch with us, or email staff directly. We are committed to staying connected with you and the staff are continuously working together to communicating and providing resources for you.

Please continue to give either by mailing or dropping off offering during office hours, or [give online through this link](#). Thank you for your support!

Stay in touch – If you are not on our email list, email us at office@holynativity.net to be added and receive updates and links. Also, [follow us on our Facebook page](#), and join [our Facebook group](#) here.

We are posting information on our website here: <http://holynativity.net/>.

Donations needed! For about the price of an x-large pizza you can provide the basics of a Personal Care Kit thru Lutheran World Relief and the collection of these items here at Holy Nativity. A Personal Care Kit includes a dark colored medium weight towel, 2 bars of soap, a toothbrush, sturdy comb and a nail clipper. These kits go to people who have lost everything to war, social unrest, crop failures and bad weather. Collection boxes will be in the narthex.

Have you directed all your 2019 Thrivent Choice dollars to Holy Nativity? Thrivent members can still direct funds earned last year through March 31, 2020. To see if you have any 2019 dollars remaining, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice online, or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice."

If you have a prayer request or update, or wish to be added to our prayer group, please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or office@holynativity.net.