

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

**PRELUDE**     *The Lone Wild Bird*     HELD

**CONFESSION**

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.*

*Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.*  
Silence is kept for reflection.

*Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,  
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.*

*God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.  
Amen.*

**GREETING**

*The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all. And also with you.*

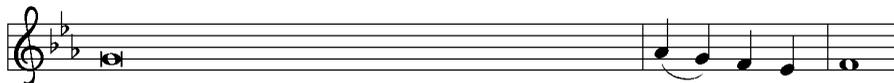
**KYRIE ELEISON [Lord, have mercy]**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



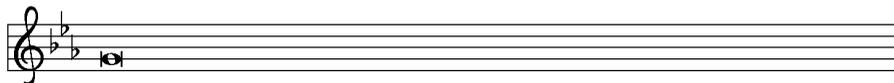
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



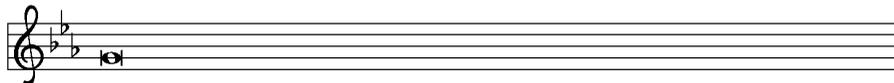
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. Bend your ear to 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.*

## FIRST READING: 1 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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." <sup>2</sup>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.'" <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>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



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*The Holy Gospel according to John.      Glory to you, O Lord.*

### GOSPEL: 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.*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>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?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>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.”

<sup>18</sup>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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>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.” <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> 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?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON** *Christian F. Dittmar, Assisting Pastor*

**HYMN OF DAY #334** *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* THOMAS  
(stanzas 1,2,3 and Lent 4)

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS

*Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs*

*...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

*Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
Amen.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *Intonation in "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"* BENDER

OFFERTORY #801 *Change My Heart, O God* CHANGE MY HEART



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## SANCTUS [Holy, Holy, Holy]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff has two measures: 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff has two measures: 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

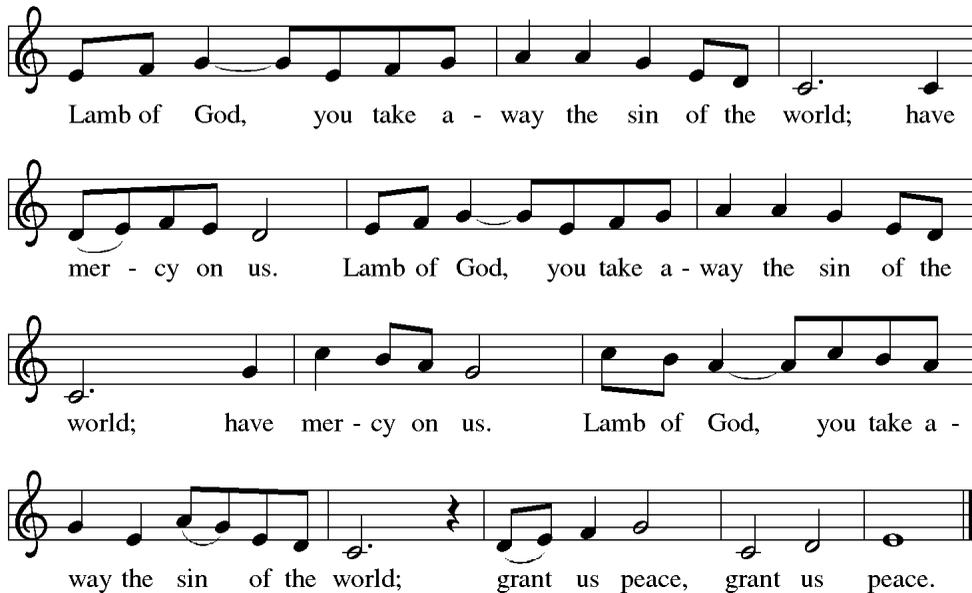
*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.*

## AGNUS DEI [Lamb of God]



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

## BLESSING

*Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN #768 *Lead Me, Guide Me*** LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

## DISMISSAL

*Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
Thanks be to God.*

**POSTLUDE *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*** WOLD

## When We Must Bear Persistent Pain



1 When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer  
2 Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for  
3 We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may  
4 In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our



with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence,  
bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and  
smile to greet the sun, to do your work with  
frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you



breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.  
live and love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.  
clear - ing mind, and bless your name when day is done.  
in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

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“... and Christ will shine on you.”

**Welcome to First Lutheran Church.**

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

**WE ASK EVERYONE** to complete the “Footprints” and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person’s permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given to the glory of God by Tad & Maria Schell, in honor of their grandson, Connor James Schell’s 7th birthday on March 12th.

**FEAST OF ST. PATRICK** St. Patrick, known as the apostle to the Irish, is himself not Irish but felt called by God to be a missionary to Ireland in the 5th century. We celebrate his feast day, and will commemorate the evening before it with a service of Holy Communion not as a chance to wear green and get a discount on lamb stew at the pub down the street, but a chance to give thanks to God for the example of a brave and determined missionary and saint whose love of God and God’s people lead him to boldly proclaim the love of God in Christ Jesus to a world that was longing for good news. May we, inspired by his example, share the Gospel message in word and deed to our world that is indeed longing for good news. Our service will be **TOMORROW** at 7pm on Monday the 16th of March.

**ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are now available for the 2026-27 school year on the church website under Forms/Youth Forms or the office. All applications and letters of recommendation are due in the church office by March 31st. Two scholarships are available, the Endowment General Scholarship and the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship. Details are available in the February newsletter and when the forms are downloaded. Any questions, contact Cyndy Rotman at 419-348-0064.

**OUR TRADITIONAL “CROSS OF LOVE”** has returned. Please feel free to place your donation in one of the envelopes provided in the bulletin and fill it out. You can place it in the offering plate, send it to the church, or drop off to the office. Your monetary donation will be recognized by hanging the envelope on our narthex cross in memory or honor of loved ones and friends. The proceeds will go to benefit the Blessing Basket at St. John’s.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** This year we will be doing a reenactment of the Last Supper. We will have members from Trinity (Findlay), St. Johns, Trinity (Arcadia), and First who will be joining their voices and talents to worship and praise God in a different way. This service will be a service of Holy Communion and the first communion of AJ Johnson and Hudson Beck!

**GOOD FRIDAY** On Good Friday we will be gathering together at 7pm for a Tenebrae Service entitled In Calvary’s Shadow. This is a service of Word and Song that focuses on penitence and forgiveness. It beautifully and simplistically interweaves congregational participation, dramatic readings, and solos for the Spirit to work through all of us in new and blessed ways.

**DON’T FORGET THE COMMUNITY DINNER!** APRIL’S Community Dinner RISES UP on Easter Sunday!! Please consider donating fresh fruit, fruit cups, or muffins! We will be serving “breakfast for lunch,” so we won’t need regular desserts or salads. I know this is a family time, but consider helping with prep, cleanup, OR JUST COME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND BRUNCH for those who don’t have families!! Thanks!

**WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT**

6pm Soup Supper  
7pm Service with Holy Communion

February 25 - Trinity Lutheran Church  
935 Bigelow Ave, Findlay

March 4 - First Lutheran Church  
109 E Lincoln, Findlay

March 11 - St. John’s Lutheran Church  
1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

March 18 - Trinity Lutheran Church  
18974 State Rt 12, Arcadia

March 25 - St. John’s Lutheran Church  
with NWO Synod Leading  
1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay