

One thing I know:
**THAT THOUGH
I WAS BLIND,
NOW I SEE.**

John 9:25



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As We Gather

As we gather on this Fourth Sunday in Lent, we are challenged to examine our spiritual vision. We naturally pride ourselves on our insight and understanding. Yet, there is a profound danger in trusting our own wisdom—a self-righteous pride that boldly insists, "I see." Today, our worship centers on "The Blindness of 'Seeing'" as we look to John chapter 9. As you prepare your heart for the service this morning, lay aside the illusions of your own merit. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose the shadows within. For it is only when we confess our natural, helpless darkness that we can truly marvel at Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, who graciously opens our eyes to His saving cross.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

512 – O Christ, Our True and Only Light

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 119:18; 36:9; 43:3; 18:28

P Open my eyes, that I may see

C **Wondrous things from Your law.**

P For with You is the fountain of life;

C **In Your light we see light.**

P Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me;

C **Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.**

P For You will light my lamp;

C **The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.**

Confession and Absolution

P Dear friends in Christ, we often trust in our own vision, believing we see the world and ourselves clearly. Yet, in our pride, we are entirely blind to our sin and our desperate need for a Savior. Let us draw near to our gracious God, who promises to bring the blind by a way they did not know, and confess our sins to Him, asking for His cleansing and His light.

C Almighty God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have walked in the darkness of our own desires rather than in the light of Your will. We have been blind to the needs of our neighbors, and we have proudly trusted in our own wisdom and sight. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, has washed away your guilt and opened your eyes to His grace. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.


Gloria Patri
GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

Old Testament Reading

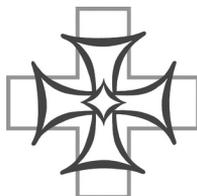
Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ “I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, And I will dry up the pools. ¹⁶ I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them. ¹⁷ They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded 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 he who is perfect, And blind as the LORD’s servant? ²⁰ Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear.” ²¹ The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 142

- P** I cry out to the LORD with my voice;
- C** **With my voice to the LORD I make my supplication.**
- P** I pour out my complaint before Him;
- C** **I declare before Him my trouble.**
- P** When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then You knew my path.
- C** **In the way in which I walk They have secretly set a snare for me.**
- P** Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me;
- C** **Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul.**
- P** I cried out to You, O LORD:
- C** **I said, “You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.”**
- P** Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low;
- C** **Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I.**
- P** Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name;
- C** **The righteous shall surround me, For You shall deal bountifully with me.**



Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴ Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

Response

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Amen.

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

388 – Just as I Am, without One Plea

Sermon Text

John 9:1-41

¹ Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. ⁴ I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the 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 these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷ And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. ⁸ Therefore

the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"⁹ Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."¹⁰ Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"¹¹ He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."¹² Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."¹³ They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.¹⁷ They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."¹⁸ But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"²⁰ His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;²¹ but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."²² His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."²⁴ So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."²⁵ He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."²⁶ Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"²⁷ He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"²⁸ Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."³⁰ The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!³¹ Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.³² Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."³⁴ They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"³⁶ He answered and said,

“Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” ³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. ³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” ⁴⁰ Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.



Sermon

The Blindness of “Seeing”

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

Hymn

777 – Amazing Grace

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
Thee all praise and glo - ry be. How
life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh,
shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv - est all?
may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv - est all!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

399 (1-4) – Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

March 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
March 18	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
March 25	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 27	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
March 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Have you ever prayed desperately, only to be met with deafening silence? Mary and Martha knew that pain well. When Lazarus fell deathly ill, they sent for Jesus. Yet, He deliberately stayed away. He delayed, and Lazarus died. Next Sunday, we will explore this heartbreaking narrative in John 11:1-45 under the theme, "The Beautiful Agony of God's Delay." Why does the Lord sometimes wait while our hearts break? Why does He allow us to weep? Join us as we discover how Christ's agonizing delays are actually beautiful setups for His greatest glories. Come hear the One who promises, "I am the resurrection and the life," and find lasting comfort for your waiting heart.

Midweek Lenten Series: Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus: Our midweek Lenten services have begun. This year, our meditation follows the theme "Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus." We are exploring how the Old Testament account of Israel's rescue from Egypt foreshadows our own rescue from sin and death. Just as God heard the cries of His people in bondage, He hears us and answers us in Christ Jesus.

Please join us for the remainder of these opportunities to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Savior's passion. All services are at 2:00 PM.

Service Schedule:

- **Mar 18:** The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)
- **Mar 25:** The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

Learning with Littles – Easter Bag Donations Needed: We're planning to put together special Easter bags for the children to enjoy at our March 27th Learning with Littles Session! We're aiming to assemble about 70 bags for children ages 4 and under, and we'd love your help. We're looking for both food and non-food items to fill the bags. Some suggestions include:

- **Food items:** fruit snacks, Cutie oranges, granola bars, Goldfish crackers, Easter-themed chocolate or candy
- **Non-food items:** small containers of Play-Doh, mini slinkies, bubbles, stickers, sticky hands, toy cars, hair bows, pop-its, slap bracelets

Thank you for supporting this outreach and helping us share the love of Jesus with young children and their families in our community!

Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday: We invite you to help beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one. Each lily is \$10. If you would like to participate, please sign up at the back of church by March 29.

CLC Call News: In recent call news, Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck has accepted the call to serve as President of Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, and Pastor Tom Naumann has accepted the call to Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN. Calls have been received by Teacher Levi Schaller to Redeemer Lutheran in Cheyenne, WY; Teacher Lane Fischer to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI; Teacher Noah Ohlmann to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI; and Dr. Daniel Sullivan as a professor at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire. Returning their recent calls are Pastor Tom Naumann (to Holy Cross, Phoenix), Pastor Johnathan Schnose (to Messiah, Eau Claire), and Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld (to Living Hope, Appleton). Additionally, Pastor Nathanael Mayhew has been appointed to serve as CLC Secretary through June 2026, filling the vacancy left by Pastor Wayne Eichstadt, who has accepted an appointment to the CLC Board of Regents.

Fruits of Faith		March 8, 2026	Attendance: WH – 18; ORL – 12	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,287.00	General Budget	\$175.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$75.00	-Under / +Over	+\$107.69	-Under / +Over	
\$12,464.72	Year to Date Offerings	\$500.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$13,620.00	Year to Date Need	\$673.10	Year to Date Need	
-\$1,155.28	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$173.10	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$120.00	Benevolence Fund	\$75.00	CLC Kinship	
\$10.00	Easter Lily			
\$110.00	Property Improvement			

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

March 16 – March 21, 2026

Monday - *John 6:1-15*

Jesus provides ample food for more than five thousand people. But bread alone does not bring spiritual life, and He withdraws again when they want to force Him to be their earthly king (verse 15).

Tuesday - *Galatians 4:21-31*

Paul urges the Galatians to remain children of the promise (saved by grace), and not to return to slavery to the law for their hope of life. He illustrates with Sarah's and Hagar's offspring.

Wednesday - *Isaiah 49:8-13*

The LORD promises to help and guard His servant and to make Him a covenant for the people. Thus the LORD comforts His people and shows mercy to His afflicted ones (verse 13).

Thursday - *Psalms 139:1-12*

The all-knowing LORD has placed His hand on us (verse 5) and is with us always, no matter where we may go (verses 8-9). He always sees clearly, for darkness and light are the same to Him (verse 12).

Friday - *Psalms 139:13-24*

Not only do God's knowledge and presence comfort us, but also His great power, shown in our creation. He has the power over all those who hate Him, and He leads us in the way everlasting.

Saturday - *Psalms 46*

God's power is so high above both nations and creation in turmoil that we need never fear, though all are trembling around us. He makes wars cease and says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (verse 10).