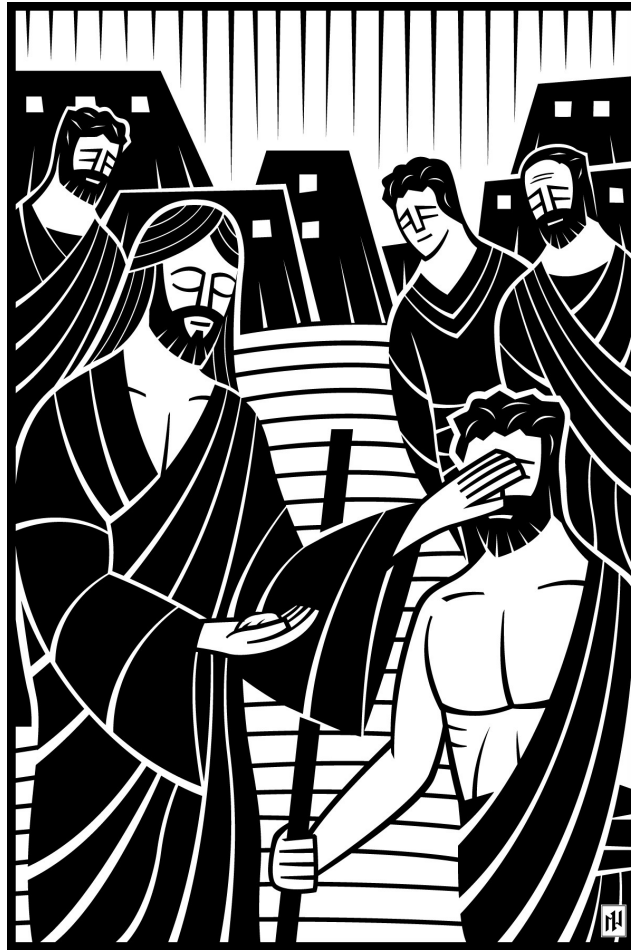


Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church



1001 North Capitol Avenue Lansing, MI 48906
www.emanuelfirst.org; www.facebook.com/EmanuelLutheran
(517) 485-4118

Service Times: Sunday 8:00AM & 10:30AM - Wednesday 6:30PM

Radio Broadcast Sunday 8:00AM on WJIM 1240 on the AM dial

Live streaming 8:00 and 10:30AM follow the prompt on the website

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Paul J. Lindloff

Pastor Joel A. Voss

Notes for Visitors:

- **Welcome!** If you are a guest this morning, please fill out a cream colored card. These cards are placed in every pew. One side of the card is for members receiving communion, the other side is for visitors. You may place the card in the collection plate. Feel free to also speak with one of the pastors to introduce yourself or ask any questions.
- **Restrooms** are located in the hallway north of the sanctuary.
- **Nursery Room:** If you need a quiet place for your children, we have a room near the church offices. If you need help finding the room, please ask an usher for assistance.
- **Hymnals:** Use the blue hymn books in the rack ahead of your pew to follow along in the service. If you need help or guidance, please ask someone nearby to assist you.

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Pastors' Notes

As we journey to the cross of our Savior, Lent is a season when we engage in the struggle with our sinful nature. It is a passionate struggle, one which clearly shows our greatest needs... and how they are met in Jesus. The color for Lent is purple, meant to symbolize Jesus' suffering passion on the cross. (For a longer explanation concerning Lent, see the post from Feb 21 on Emanuel's facebook page.)

The struggle against our sinful nature may leave us feeling defeated. It's for that reason that these Sundays in Lent offer refreshment for wearied souls. We find that refreshment today as Jesus answers one of our greatest needs: sight for the blind. Unbelief will have consequences in the future—eternal separation from God. But unbelief also has consequences now. It makes you blind, in a sense. The unbeliever is unable to see the world as it really is. That which is harmful the unbeliever considers good; that which is good he considers meaningless. The unbeliever cannot see the danger that lurks behind temptation. He cannot see the blessing contained in God's Word. The unbeliever cannot see the tragic fate that lies in his future, and he certainly cannot see the Savior.

The Old Testament said that restoration of sight to the blind was one of the works of the Messiah. In his ministry, Jesus healed those who were physically blind. But even if our eyes work just fine, we still need Jesus to give us spiritual vision. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Jesus meets our greatest needs. He provides sight for the spiritually blind.

Order Of Worship: Setting Three pg. 188

Hymns.....601; 515; 713; 736
 Sermon Theme.....Ephesians 5:8-14

Christ Shines on You

Prayer Of The Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ I have been silent for a long time.
 I have kept still. I have restrained myself.
 But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream.
 I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵ I will dry up mountains and hills.
 I will make all their grass wither.
 I will turn rivers into islands.
 I will dry up pools.
¹⁶ I will lead the blind on a way they do not know.
 Along paths they do not know I will direct them.
 Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light
 and rough places into level ground.
 These are the things I will accomplish for them.
 I will not abandon them.
¹⁷ They will be turned back and completely disgraced—
 those who trust in an idol,
 those who say to molten images, “You are our gods.”
¹⁸ You deaf ones, listen!
 You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see!
¹⁹ Who is as blind as my servant?
 Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent?
 Who is as blind as my associate,
 as blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰ You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe.
 Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear.
²¹ Because of his own righteousness,
 the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

Psalm 27 (Hymn 825)

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Try to learn

what is pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹ and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. ¹⁴ Therefore it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Gospel Acclamation

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
(Hebrews 12:2)*

Gospel: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

¹ As Jesus was passing by, 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, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God’s works might be revealed in connection with him. ⁴ I must do 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 After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

¹³ They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man told them. “I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others were saying, “How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?”

There was division among them, ¹⁷ so they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴ They answered him, “You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir,” the man replied, “that I may believe in him?”

³⁷ Jesus answered, “You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” and he knelt down and worshipped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”

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