

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

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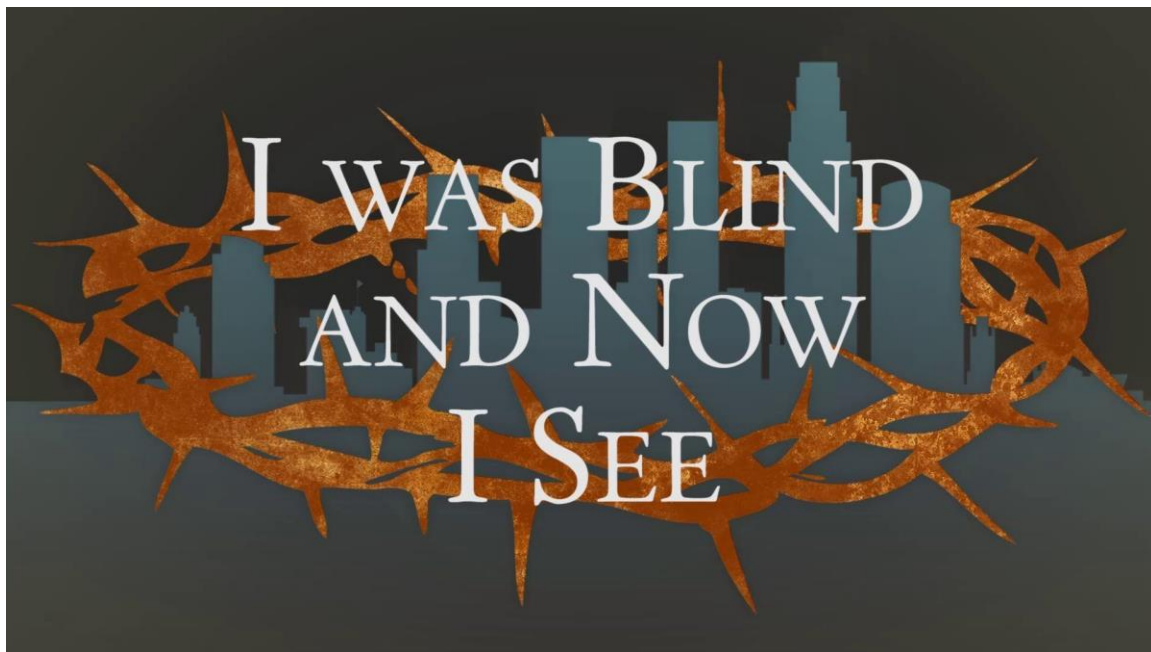
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PASTOR TOM HURLEY

Serving today with

PASTOR RICKY ADAMS



March 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

"THE BLIND SEE"

Whoever you are...

Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...

YOU are WELCOME here

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome and Introduction of Today's Theme

Invocation and Introduction of Today's Theme

Pastor A: There is a man mentioned in John 9 who was born blind, but when Jesus arrived on the scene, this blind man's life drastically changed. Not only would he see with his eyes, but he would also come to a clear spiritual view of Christ. His words do not explain the cause of the man's blindness, but the purpose. He sees in the blind man an opportunity to display the works of God. Additionally, as a result of this miracle, there was yet another head-on collision between the Pharisees and the Lord Jesus Christ. From this account, we learn of a blindness far more dangerous and devastating than that of the mere loss of (physical) sight. Here we find the blind given sight and the seeing blinded.

Pastor A: Lord God, in this short time together, open our ears and our eyes to see your vision for this place and our part within it. Teach us, hear our prayers and enable us for service wherever you might take us, to your praise and glory.

Opening Prayer

Pastor H: Let us pray. Lord, pull back the veil" and reveal your presence and work around us. When our eyes are open, we see that you are everywhere, in everything, always. When our eyes are open, we see every day is brimming over with your love and presence: filled with Your majesty, Your activity and Your miracles. Open our eyes, that we may see the Your love, mercy, and grace in Jesus. Open our eyes, that we may behold wonderful things from Your law. Open our eyes to see Your glory in all of creation. Open our eyes to see the blessing in every hardship. Open our eyes to see the Gospel in every person. Amen.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Pastor A: Let's now confess our sin before God who is faithful and just.

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailiness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom. Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from your wisdom.

Pastor H: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Amen

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

Pastor A: This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Message: “Why Did God Allow THAT to Happen?” – Pastor Tom Hurley

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Pastor A: **Apostles' Creed –**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor A: **The Prayers**

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.

Benediction

Pastor A May God's Word be in your heart. May God's Word be on your lips. May
God's Word be in your touch. May God's Word direct your feet. On this
day and all your days to come May God's Word be the life you live.

Pastor H: Stay well – stay healthy-practice social distancing and shelter in place,
but most importantly know that you are loved by God, always.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon
you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and
grant you His everlasting peace. Amen