

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church

Juneau, Alaska

"A Harbor for God's Love"

Holy Communion with the Reserve Sacrament

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 ~ 10:30 am



The Mission of the Church:

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to
unity with God and each other in Christ.

Catechism, Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 855

We welcome visitors. Take a moment to sign our guest book in the narthex, and join us for coffee hour after the service. Please join us in worship again, and may God bless your week.

*Before the service, speak to the Lord;
during the service, let the Lord speak to you;
after the service, speak to one another.*

Holy Communion With Reserve Sacrament

Led by Worship Leaders trained and licensed by the Diocese of Alaska

Jo Schoeppe~ Officiant

Musicians ~ Stephanie Hall, piano & Elena Levi, violin

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Liturgy of the Word

Please stand as able and join in singing the Opening Hymn.

Opening Hymn

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

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All standing as able, the Officiant says

People Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
 His mercy endures for ever.

Confession of Sin

All kneel or stand as able.

The Officiant says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Officiant and People together say

**Most merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Officiant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The following is sung, all standing as able.

Lord Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*
Christ, have mercy. *(three times)*
Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

All sit.

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

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.” 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.’ 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.” 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?” 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. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” 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.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” 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.” 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.” 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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated.

Dominus regit me

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Reading***Ephesians 5:8-14*****Brita Rice**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

All stand as able.

In the bulb there is a flower

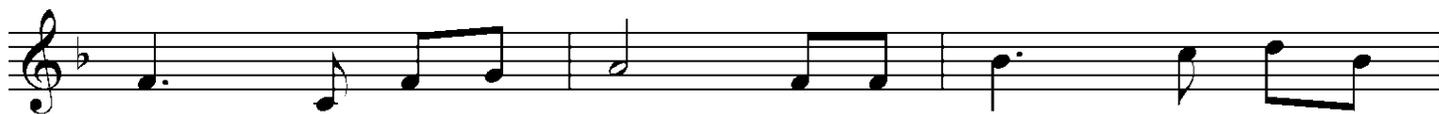
My Heart Sings Out 86



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -



tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter -
dy; there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing
ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our



flies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of
hope to you and me. From the past will come the
life, e - ter - ni - ty; in our death, a res - ur -



win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
fu - ture, what it holds, a mys - ter - y, un - re -
rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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Congregation may remain seated during the reading of the Gospel.

Officiant

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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." 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." 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. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” 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.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 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?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. 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.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Officiant The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Jo Schoeppe

Nicene Creed

All stand as able and together say

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People: Form VI

Dan Hall

All remain standing as able

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are

alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

We pray for: **Natalie & Ed, Talitha, Sue, the Thomas family, Jim, Catie, Jo, Lisa, Jennie & family, Stephanie, Jessie, Tracy, Ann, Johnny, Seena, Mary & Stan, Marilyn, Jeannie, Caroline, Laurie, Tamira, Heather, Fred, Henry, Sharon & family, David & Jackie, Gavin, Dee, John, Judi, Linda, Heaven, John, Mike, Ashu, Karen, Ann, Eyerus, Maria, Justine, John, Don A., Mariah, Miryam, Rudy, David, Steve, Julie, Linda, Marilyn, Stephanie, Penny, Jim, Cyndy, Anne, Aaron & Devonne, Dwayne, Constance, Troy, Cheryl, Jordan, Jeremy; for the victims of domestic violence and gun violence; all who live and work at the Johnson Youth Center, SEARHC'S: Ravens Way, and Lemon Creek Correctional Center; all who live with addictions; all who suffer from long term illnesses; and for those who love and care for them.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For *Sean* our Presiding Bishop, and *Mark* our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant adds a concluding collect

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Peace

All Stand as able.

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

The People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Holy Communion

The Officiant says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

Today's loose offering will go into the General Fund.

Offertory Hymn

ASHES

Tom Conry



1. We rise a-gain from ash - es, from the good we've failed to
2. We of - fer you our fail-ures, we ___ of - fer you at -
3. Then rise a-gain from ash - es, let ___ heal - ing come to
4. † Thanks be to the Fa-ther, who ___ made us like him-



1. do. We rise a - gain from ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a -
2. tempts, the gifts not ful - ly giv - en, the ___ dreams not ful - ly
3. pain, though spring has turned to win - ter, and ___ sun - shine turned to
4. self. † Thanks be to his Son, ___ who _ saved us by his



1. new. If ___ all our world is ash - es, then ___ must our lives be
2. dreamt. Give our stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our vi - sions wid - er
3. rain. The ___ rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre - ate the world a -
4. death. † Thanks be to the Spir - it who cre - ates the world a -



1. true, an ___ of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
2. view, an ___ of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
3. new from an of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
4. new from an of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

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The People stand as able and sing the Doxology as the offering is brought forward and placed on the Credence Table.

Doxology (*a hymn of praise*) See last page for music.

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow:
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

The service continues with the authorized Thanksgiving Prayer, all stand as able.

Prayer of Preparation for Communion

Officiant: God of all love we draw near with awe and reverence to the mystery of our Savior's Body and Blood.

People: Lord have mercy

May we commemorate his passion and recall his resurrection with pure hearts and unclouded faith.

People: Lord have mercy

For our sake he was born into the human family, mortal, tried and tempted as we are; and by his preaching of the kingdom he called us to the knowledge of your truth.

People: Lord have mercy

When he had fulfilled all things he was lifted up upon the cross, and rose from the dead, and was taken up into heaven to be the first-fruits of our human nature, the author and perfecter of faith.

People: Lord have mercy

Now he calls us to his table to become partakers of his grace.

People: Lord have mercy

With a humble will and with overflowing love may we receive your gift of everlasting life.

People: Lord have mercy

With pure prayer and abundant hope may we leave with you those things that are past and devote ourselves afresh to your service.

People: Lord have mercy

Grant us to receive the Holy One and to be hallowed by the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grant us to share in the peace of Christ through the sacrament of peace.
Amen.

May this Holy Communion bring us to new life in your kingdom and unite us with all your Saints. **Amen.**

The Officiant continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Officiant

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Officiant says

Let us make our Holy Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people and received by faith.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We are no longer strangers or guests but one family in the Lord. Let the Chalice Bearer know if you prefer alcohol free wine. Chalice Bearers – Barbara Learmonth & Rob Smith

Communion Music

Stephanie Hall & Elena Levi

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

The Officiant and People together say

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Please stand as able for any birthdays or anniversaries and together say

Prayer for Birthdays *(BCP 830, prayer 50)*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Anniversaries *(BCP p. 431)*

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, *N. and N.* that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness. That their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Announcements...See page 20.

People may be seated and announcements are now made.

Closing Hymn

I want to walk as a child of the light

Hymnal 490

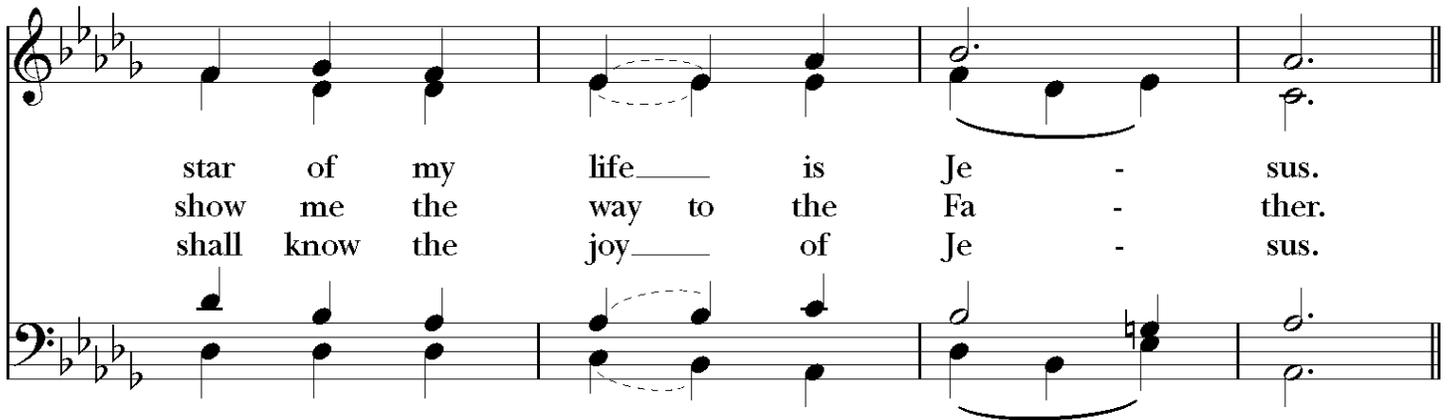
1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

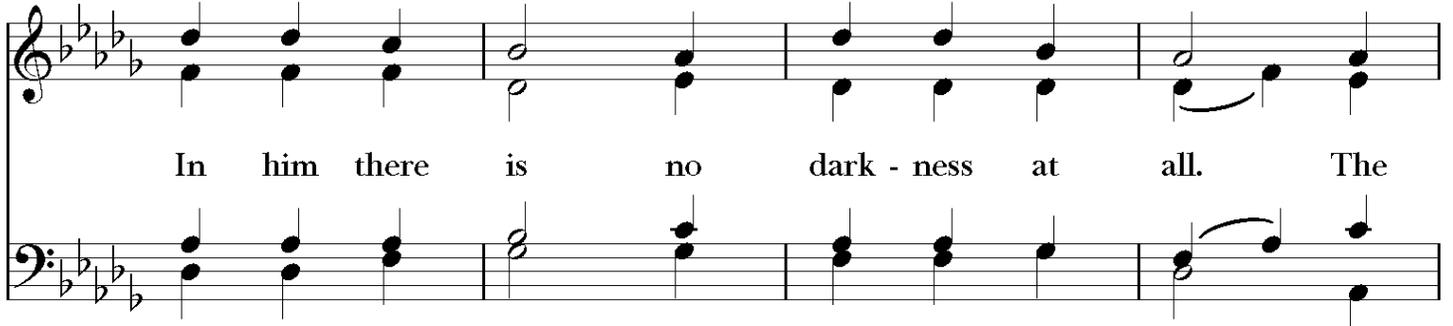
The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. There are dashed lines in the piano accompaniment of the first and third systems, indicating specific chord voicings or fingerings.

Hymn continues on next page...

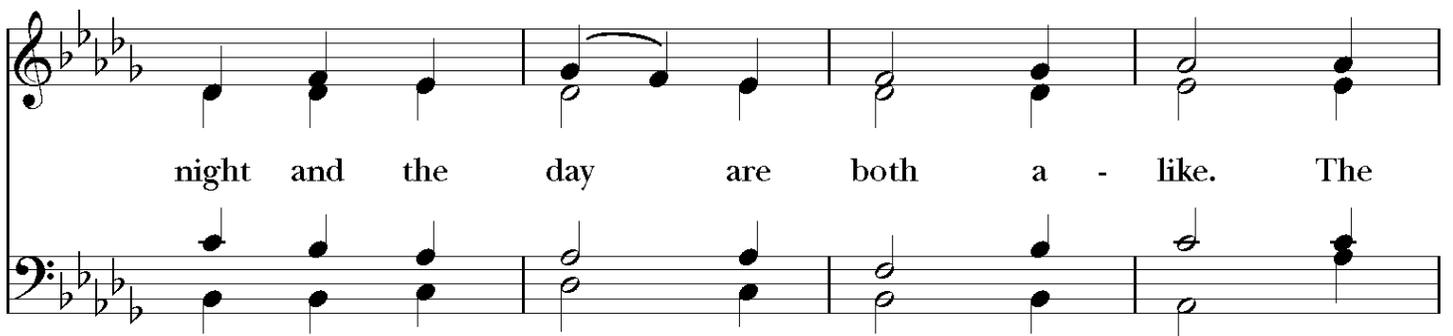


star of my life is the Jesus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

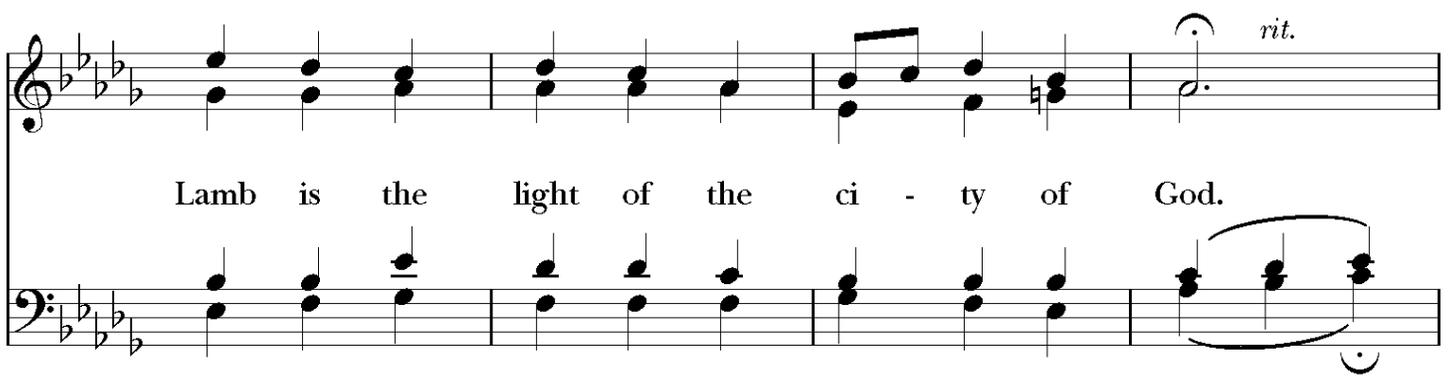
Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo marking 'a tempo' is written above the first staff. The lyrics 'Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.' are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word 'sus.'.

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant says

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

A Note on Today's Readings

The Fourth Sunday in Lent—Year A

Welcome to our worship service today on the Sunday of the Man Born Blind. This gospel reading has been used since early days of the church to help those preparing for baptism understand the process of enlightenment they are going through. In this story, the blind man progresses from the restoration of his physical sight to a deeper enlightenment about God until he is able to recognize Jesus as his Redeemer.

The first reading takes us to the point in the history of salvation when David is chosen by God as king. As is so often the case with the outstanding heroes of the faith, God's choice is not apparent to those who evaluate by human standards. David's anointing is an image of our own baptism in which God chose us and set us apart not for our own merits but because God loves us.

The second reading describes how those who have been baptized and now live in the light will carry on their lives. The final verse may be an ancient Christian baptismal hymn.

We, like the man born blind, are now awake and filled with the Light from Light through our baptism. As we continue in our Lenten pilgrimage toward Easter, enlightened by God's Word and nourished by the sacraments, we find ourselves in the company of a great family of believers. Let us continue to pray for those preparing to be enlightened and anointed in baptism by the Holy Spirit at Easter.

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AshesType: Words and Music; First Line: We rise again from ashes Language: English © 1978, OCP. All rights reserved. Contributors: Tom Conry **Christ Be Our Light** Type: Words and Music; First Line: Longing for light, we wait in darkness Language: English © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Contributors: Bernadette Farrell **In the Bulb There Is a Flower** Type: Words and Music; First Line: In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple Language: English © 1986 Hope Publishing Company Contributors: Natalie Sleeth Tune: © 1986 Hope Publishing Company Text: © 1986 Hope Publishing Company **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light** Type: Words and Music Language: English Kathleen Thomerson, © 1970, 1975, Celebration Contributors: Kathleen Thomerson Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, © 1970, 1975, Celebration Text: Kathleen Thomerson, © 1970, 1975, Celebration **Reprinted & Streamed with permission under OneLicenseA-721147. All rights reserved.**

Lenten Season Community Soup and Worship

5:30 p.m.

March 18th

Location: **Douglas Island Bible**

Address: **2770 David Street**

Soup and bread: **Douglas Methodist**

**The Way of the Cross ~ Fridays during Lent at 5:30 p.m. ~ led by
Worship Leaders**



Paint Social for St. Brendan's

March 19 ~ 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Adams Hall

All Supplies will be provided

Pizza for dinner provided

Serving Schedule

March 1 ~ March 29 ~ 2026

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Altar	Dave Muldoon	Lori Seymour	Brita Rice	Tonya Muldoon	Dan Hall
1st Reading	Dave Muldoon	Jackie Schulz	Stephanie Hall	Rob Smith	Barbara Learmonth
Psalm	Dan Hall	Rob Smith	Barbara Learmonth	Dave Muldoon	Stephanie Hall
2nd Reading	Stephanie Hall	Ken Vaughan	Brita Rice	Dan Hall	Jo Schoeppe
Gospel	Michael Rowcroft	Dave Muldoon	Jo Schoeppe	Barbara Learmonth	Michael Rowcroft
Prayers of the People	Jo Schoeppe	Dan Hall	Jackie Schulz	Ken Vaughan	Rob Smith
Chalice Bearer	Rob Smith & Barbara Learmonth	Dan Hall & Jo Schoeppe	Rob Smith & Barbara Learmonth	Jo Schoeppe & Dave Muldoon	Rob Smith & Barbara Learmonth
Worship Leader	Michael Rowcroft	Dave Muldoon	Jo Schoeppe	Barbara Learmonth	Michael Rowcroft
Godly Play	Michael & Tamara Rowcroft & Tonya Muldoon				
Coffee Hour	Potluck	Carol Fujioka		Paulina & Andrew	Barbara & Reagan
Ushers	Dave Muldoon	Jeff & Carol Fujioka	Alec Muldoon	Ingrid Zaruba & Jo Schoeppe	Dave Muldoon

"Seeing Our Blindness"

*By The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, VIIIth Bishop of Alaska
Episcopal Diocese of Alaska E~News, 3/13/2026*

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." John 9:39.

It's a miracle! Jesus gives sight to a man born blind. Miracle causes quite a stir.

If that reads like a headline, it is because I am imagining the story of Jesus giving sight to the man born blind appearing above the fold in the "Jerusalem Star Tribune" (I think I just aged myself). This gospel story from John, appointed for this coming Fourth Sunday in Lent, paints quite a picture. For a story about blindness the description is vivid. Spit, mud, washing in the pool of Siloam, disbelief, crowds gathering, interrogation, intrigue, even the man's parents appear on the stage. So many details color this story.

But are we able to see these details, or, more subtly, are we able to see through them?

The details are important. This is not a healing miracle--that's an important detail. This is not a restoration of sight. No, this is something entirely new. The man was born blind--he had never seen. Jesus didn't heal him; what Jesus did was to give him sight.

"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

His sight, the only sight he has ever had, is through the eyes of Jesus. It is a sight that has seen no other light than the light of Christ--a whole new way of seeing.

Of course, the people who represent the systems and structures, the authorized way of seeing--the "normal" way of seeing, see this "miracle" in a different way. Their vision is focused by judgment--their judgment of sin, of right and wrong. Their vision is distorted by status and judgments based on power and authority. In their eyes, they see things

clearly. "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Am I?

What if we could see through your eyes, Lord?

And here is the miracle--the part of the story where the paradox of Jesus' words becomes clear. Jesus offers blindness AND sight. He offers us blindness to the world's way of seeing, blindness to vision through the darkness of self-serving judgment of others in order to maintain the status quo and uphold the power and authority of the "seeing." He calls us to blindness to this vision--this way of seeing this world, then offers NEW sight to those who are blind.

Here is the astonishing thing: Once your eyes are blind to vision focused by human judgment, prejudice, worldly power, and selfish human designs Jesus offers sight Not the healing or restoration of old ways of seeing and judging, but the gift of a brand new way of seeing. Jesus offers sight through His eyes: a vision that judges the world through a lens focused by His love, illuminated by the light of His mercy, His justice, His Grace, and His forgiveness.

Once we see our blindness, Jesus gives us sight.

