

First Presbyterian Church, Wausau

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Link to online video <https://youtu.be/J7pzXsrjddw>

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Once we lived in darkness, but now—as children of light,

we are called to what is good and right and true.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”; That we may also say, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

CALL TO CONFESSION

As children of God’s light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus knows the inmost heart; nothing can be hidden.

Jesus knows the inmost heart; nothing can be hidden.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The psalmist assures us that God’s goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God’s forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ. We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.

SUNG RESPONSE

**All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep,
so high, so broad:**

The Trinity, whom we adore forever and forever more.

CALLING ALL KIDS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory

becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 9:1-12

MESSAGE *A Blind Opportunity*

HYMN *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MINUTE FOR MISSION *One Great Hour of Sharing*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

OFFERTORY

SUNG RESPONSE

**Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in
troubled days
with wondrous works to humankind that call for
highest praise.
Let all who know God's saving love sing grateful
songs always.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light

through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

CHARGE

Go peaceably, looking upon the hearts of others.
Live in Christ's light, even in the darkest valley.
Trust that he is able to open your eyes,
enabling you to walk by faith in his name.

BLESSING

May the love of God pursue you,
the light of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you;
as you dwell in the house of the Lord
your whole life long.

POSTLUDE