

## SERMON NOTES. . .

### “Having Clear Vision” John 9:1-41

1. There are 3 truths to having clear vision: a) We need to see \_\_\_\_\_ as they really are. b) We need to see \_\_\_\_\_ as He truly is. c) We need to see \_\_\_\_\_ as we truly are.
2. In our story, the disciples instantly see the man and assume he must have \_\_\_\_\_ that he was born blind.
3. Sometimes we hear something about someone else and we’re quick to believe it even when there is no proof given. That is called \_\_\_\_\_!
4. Don’t presume God is \_\_\_\_\_ others if they go through difficulty.
5. Sometimes God blesses people in spite of their \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sometimes God uses the difficult circumstances of our lives to cause us to grow stronger, to \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.
7. In II Corinthians 12, \_\_\_\_\_ writes about his sufferings and how God used them.
8. God uses difficulties to help us to \_\_\_\_\_. God does care for us and for our needs. When God doesn’t answer our prayers for help or healing we know it isn’t because He doesn’t care.
9. God has a purpose for what He does. God may allow us to suffer so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ others.
10. God is a compassionate healer, a purposeful planner, and God works \_\_\_\_\_ in each circumstance.
11. The truth is that it is only by \_\_\_\_\_ strength and grace that we can bear up to difficulty. On our own strength, we will fall.
12. The Pharisees thought they had all the answers. They were \_\_\_\_\_. We need to realize God will sometimes use unlikely people to teach us. Am I teachable?



West Prairie Lutheran  
Church

# Welcome to West Prairie Lutheran Church!

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

40041 150th Ave., P.O. Box 9, Leland, IA 50453

Steve Bang, pastor

Please sign the attendance sheets located at the end of each pew.

If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address.

We invite you to join us again!

---

8:30 a.m. — March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship Service with Holy Communion

All who are baptized in the Christian faith and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

---

## Prelude

### Pastoral Greeting

*Please stand if you are able.*

**Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness** ..... page 77

**Opening Hymn**, *Open My Eyes That I May See...* Grey Hymnal #486

**Kyrie** ..... page 78

**Hymn of Praise** *This is the Feast*..... page 81

### Prayer of the Day

**(All) God of all mercy, by Your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*You may be seated.*

### First Lesson: Isaiah 42:14-21

“For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. “Hear, you

**Prayer** ..... page 94

**Benediction**..... page 97

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

**Closing Hymn**, *Amazing Grace* ..... LBW #448

## Postlude

**Pastor: Steve Bang**

**Organist: Melissa Phillips**

**Lectionary: Lanette Branstad**

**Usher: Jan Reimann, Paris Reimann**

**Acolyte: Caitlin Fjeld**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today...

7 p.m. Youth Group

### Wednesday, March 26...

3 p.m. Confirmation Class

6 p.m. Supper by Sarah Circle, maidrites, chips, bars

7 p.m. Lenten worship service at WP

### Next Sunday, April 2...

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School or all ages

**Opera duets and arias recital** with Quiliano Anderson (friend of Candy Johnson), Jacqueline L McCurdy and Bryan Stanley on Tuesday, April 4th at 7 pm at Waldorf University, Odvin Hagen Music Hall in Forest City. Performing excerpts from *Così fan tutte*, *L'elisir d'amore* and *La Traviata*. Admission is free.

**Prayer List** — Health concerns for Jonie Bang, Denise Holst, Robert Olsen, Leah Branstad, Brock Walden, Elaine Ritz, Carver Moffat, Marlys Haugen, Mike Haack, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil; Angela Haugen serving in the military. Prayer requests can be submitted to Pastor Steve @641-590-7894; or leave a message on the church answering system @641-567-3733.

in Him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the One speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Him.

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

Some Pharisees who were with Him heard Him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** *Praise to You, O Christ*..... page 83

**The Sermon:** Pastor Steve Bang

“Having Clear Vision” John 9:1-41

**Hymn,** *Be Thou My Vision* ..... Grey Hymnal #468

**Nicene Creed**.....page 84

## Prayer

**Congregational Response:** Hear my prayer.

Sharing of the peace.

## Offering

Please stand.

**Offertory,** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*..... 86

Pastor: Let us pray,

**Congregation: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**The Great Thanksgiving** .....page 88

**The Words of Institution**.....page 89

**The Lord’s Prayer**.....page 91

## Distribution of Holy Communion

**Communion Hymns**..... Grey Hymn Book #634, 82 122

**Post-Communion Canticle** ..... page 92 & 93

deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.”

It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

Here ends the reading.

## **Psalm 142** (responsively) **Prayer for Help in Trouble.**

*Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.*

L: I cry aloud with my voice to the Lord;

**C: I make supplication with my voice to the Lord.**

L: I pour out my complaint before Him;

**C: I declare my trouble before Him.**

L: When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path.

**C: In the way where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.**

L: Look to the right and see;

**C: For there is no one who regards me;**

L: There is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul.

**C: I cried out to You, O Lord;**

L: I said, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

**C: “Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low;**

L: Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

**C: “Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name;**

L: The righteous will surround me,

**C: For You will deal bountifully with me.”**

## **Second Lesson:** Ephesians 5:8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is

illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Here ends the reading.

**The Gospel:** John 9:1-41

**Response:** *Glory to You, O Lord*..... page 83

As Jesus went 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?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," He told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to

say about Him? It was your eyes He opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

He replied, "Whether He is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become His disciples too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where He comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does His will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe