



## ***St. George Lutheran Church***

***803 West Main St, Brighton, MI 48116***

***Phone 810-229-6670***

***www.stgeorgelutheran.org***

***stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com***

***March 19, 2023 11:00 a.m.***

***Fourth Sunday in Lent***

***Holy Communion***

**Welcome! We are glad you're here! A warm welcome is extended to all!  
Your presence enriches us at this time of celebration together.**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Sharing the Peace**

### **Centering Prayer**

*"Be still in the presence of the Lord,  
and wait patiently for him to act." Psalm 37: 7*

Lord,

**Take from me the tension  
that makes peace impossible.  
Take from me the fears  
that do not allow me to venture.  
Take from me the worries  
that blind my sight.  
Take from me the distress  
that hides your joy.**

**Help me to know  
that I am in your care,  
that I am in your love.**

~ adapted from a litany written by David Adam in "The Open Gate" SPCK 1994. Posted on the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand website.  
<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>

**(Silent prayer)**

### **Youth Message**

**Opening Song:**            *Desert Song*

This is my prayer in the desert  
When all that's within me feels dry  
This is my prayer in my hunger and need  
My God is the God who provides

This is my prayer in the fire  
In weakness or trial or pain There is a  
faith proved of more worth than gold So  
refine me Lord through the flame

*Chorus:* I will bring praise I will bring  
praise No weapon formed against me  
shall remain I will rejoice I will declare  
God is my victory and He is here  
This is my prayer in the battle

When triumph is still on its way  
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ  
So firm on His promise I'll stand *Chorus*

All of my life in ev'ry season  
You are still God I have a reason to sing  
I have a reason to worship (REPEAT)  
*Chorus*

This is my prayer in the harvest  
When favour and providence flow  
I know I'm filled to be emptied again  
The seed I've received I will sow

CCLI Song # 5060793 CCLI License # 3054064

***Graves into Gardens***

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that  
fade Are never enough  
Then You came along and put me back  
together And every desire is now  
satisfied here in Your love

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws  
Lord You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain  
Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place  
Your mercy and grace won't find me  
again

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You (repeat)

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can (repeat)

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You (repeat)

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways

You're the only one who can (repeat)  
You're the only one who can...  
CCLI Song # 7138219 CCLI License # 3054064

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**But, O Lord, we are consumed with wanting more.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

**Forgive us, Lord, when we seek other pastures that seem greener.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Lord, forgive us when complain along the path.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

**And yet, O God, we do fear.**

**May we feel your presence, your comfort and your forgiveness anew.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Forgive us we refuse to sit down at your table and see your overflowing mercy.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Forgive us, God, and lead us to abide with you.**

~ adapted from a liturgy written by Rev. Emily Schlaman Larsen, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC . Posted on  
**LiturgyLink.** <http://www.liturgylink.net/>

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

My friends, there are no half measures in God. All or nothing. “While we were still unrepentant sinners, Christ died for us.”

In the name of Jesus, step free for the shadowy past and turn to the bright future with keen eyes and optimistic hearts. We are a forgiven people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **First Reading: I Samuel 16:1-13**

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 his 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.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**Second Reading: Psalm 23 (In unison)**

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

**he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

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

As he 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 he.” 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.” 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, 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 who were with 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Song

I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days  
I've been held in Your hand  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God

### *Goodness of God*

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God  
(repeat)

I will sing of the goodness of God

CCLI Song # 7117726 CCLI License # 3054064

## **Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.***

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **Words of Institution**

**The 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, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

#### **Benediction:**

Go now and live as children of the light. Seek what is pleasing to the Lord.

Expose the unfruitful works of darkness, and commit yourselves to the works of God who sends you. And may the Lord be your shepherd and be all that you need.

May Christ open your eyes and guide you along sure paths.

May the Spirit Holy revive your spirits and tend you with goodness and love every day of your life. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Song:**

*Desert Song (See Page 2)*

Go in peace, serve the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Announcements**

**Bible Study:** Thursdays at 10:00 at the Parish House and via Zoom.

**Senior Worship/Luncheon:** Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM.

**Lenten Supper/Service:** Wednesday at 6:15/7:00 PM.

**Needleworks:** Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

**Fellowship Meeting:** Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM.

**Friends and Family Breakfast:** Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

**Friendship Circle:** Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Parish House.

**Musikgarten:** Fridays at 10:00 AM.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-11 AM.

**St. George Book Club:** Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Parish House.