



ST. GEORGE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

803 West Main St, Brighton, MI 48116

www.stgeorgelutheran.org

March 19, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Phone 810-229-6670

stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com

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

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Sharing of the Peace

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.

Entrance Hymn:

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible
tells me so;

little ones to him belong, they are weak,
but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus Loves Me

#595

Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's
gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little
child come in.

Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside
me all the way;
when at last I come to die, he will take
me home on high.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt

Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Youth Message

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.

L The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

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.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk 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; rather, 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.”

L The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

All: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou
art: thou my best thought by day and by
night, waking or sleeping, thy presence
my light.

Be Thou My Vision

#793

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true
word; I ever with thee and thou with me,
Lord. Thou my soul's shelter, and thou
my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou
art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's
Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever
befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

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 Intercession:

L Lord, in your mercy....

C Hear our Prayer

Offertory

Take my life, that I may
be consecrated, Lord, to
thee; take my moments
and my days; let them
flow in ceaseless praise.

Take My Life, That I May Be (Verses 1-3)

Take my hands and let
them move at the impulse
of thy love; take my feet
and let them be swift and
beautiful for thee.

ELW 685

Take my voice and let me
sing always, only, for my
King; take my lips and let
them be filled with
messages from thee.

Offertory Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Lamb of God: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Holy Communion: The King of Love My Shepherd Is #502

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

The Lord's My Shepherd #778

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie in pastures
green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet
waters by.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me,
and thy rod and staff me comfort still; for
thou art with me, and thy rod and staff
me comfort still.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to
walk doth make within the paths of
righteousness, e'en for his own name's
sake' within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

My table thou hast richly spread in
presence of my foes; my head thou dost
with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and
my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be;

and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

James L. Macbeth Bain; Gordon Jacob

Post Communion Blessing:

L The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C Amen

Post Communion Canticle: *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am (sing 3x) #814*

Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

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.

Sending Hymn On a Hill Far Away (The Old Rugged Cross)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best

for a world of lost sinners was slain. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown. Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown. In the

old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see; for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; Christ will call me some day to my home far away,

where his glory forever I'll share. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Current Budget Report: as of 03/12/2023

Last week's giving: \$4,203.50

Needed to meet budget: \$5,357.69

Year to Date: \$47,337.88

Ahead (Behind) Budget: (\$11,596.74)

Sunday 03/19	8 AM Fellowship Meeting 9 AM Traditional Worship, 10 AM Birthday Recognition and Sunday School for all ages, 11AM Contemporary Worship, 12 PM LCYC
Monday 03/20	
Tuesday 03/21	Office Hours 8 AM-1 PM, 11 AM Senior Worship/Luncheon, 7:30 PM AA
Wednesday 03/22	8 AM Men's Club, 6:15 PM Soup, 7:00 PM Lent Service
Thursday 03/23	Office Hours 8 AM-1 PM, 10 AM Bible Study, 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting, 7:00 PM AA
Friday 03/24	Office Hours 8 AM-1 PM, 10 AM Musikgarten
Saturday 03/25	

Announcements

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

Senior Worship/Luncheon: Tuesday, March 21st at 11:00 AM.

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

Needleworks: Thursday, April 20th at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, April 9th at 8:00 AM.

Friends and Family Breakfast: Sunday, April 9th at 10:00 AM.

Friendship Circle: Tuesday, April 11th at 9:30 AM in the Parish House.

Musikgarten: Fridays at 10:00 AM.

Birthday Recognition: Sunday, March 19th, following the 9 AM service for Don B.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 2nd from 10-11 AM.

St. George Book Club: Thursday, March 30th at 6:30 PM in the Parish House.

	March 19	March 26	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Asst. Min	Keith B.	Chris K.	Keith B.	Chris K.	Joan V.	Lorna D.	Chris K.
Lay Reader	Keith B.	Chris K.	Keith B.	Chris K.	Joan V.	Lorna D.	Chris K.
Greeter							
Usher		Jerry					
Media	Prieskorn	Prieskorn	Prieskorn	Prieskorn	Prieskorn	Prieskorn	Prieskorn
Fellowship							
Altar Care	Linda G.	Cindy					

Prayers of Grace & Support

Please pray for:

- Jeanie Petersburg, having knee replacement surgery on March 21st.
- Georgia, Gail's friend's granddaughter born premature and having health concerns.
- Gail's piano teacher and friend who had back surgery.
- Mary, Gail's friend, whose nephew died suddenly at 35 years old.
- Tracy M., friend of Bryan Rush, for healing from shoulder injury and safe travel on vacation.
- All those affected by gun violence, especially students, faculty, and staff at Michigan State University.
- John D, friend of Bryan Rush, suffering from Diabetes Type II.
- People of Turkey and Syria suffering from the aftermath of the major earthquake.
- Alia's daughter, being treated for thyroid cancer.
- Mary Anne Eppley, Linda Walton's sister-in-law, recovering from brain surgery.
- Davian Bennett, Gail's piano student, who is recovering from ear surgery.
- Lynne Morris, Michele Hirschman's friend, for a successful March surgery outcome.
- Karen Hedden, Colene's daughter-in-law, recovering from surgery.
- Susan Zaske recovering from a liver transplant.
- Bryan Rush for a successful court date coming soon.
- Bill Foster in assisted living.
- Kathy Boyes recovering.
- Melissa Alofalter, Angela Martin's friend, battling an unknown medical issue, beginning with MS and COVID.
- Ray, Alia's older brother, who has COVID along with severe RA and heart problems.
- Dottie Woodman, recovering.
- Arlene, Alia's friend, suffering persistent pain in her neck, shoulder and arm.
- Margaret Doane, Kristiina H.'s friend, with breast cancer.
- Micah, Alia's nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.
- Dan Lindberg, cousin of Kathy and Keith Boyes, has pancreatic cancer.
- Barb Gienapp with health concerns.
- Ethan and his mom, Marianne, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles. From Linda Walton.
- Theo Evans being treated for leukemia.
- Joan Richardson, dealing with health concerns.
- Cindy Brach with health issues.
- John Brach with health issues.
- Prayers for all those suffering in Ukraine.
- Charlie Davis, Marylou's husband, with cancer.
- Jon Brach and his family with health and life difficulties.
- Pan Norton, Cindy Brach's son's mother-in-law.

- Jackie (Gail's piano student) diagnosed with throat cancer.
- Theresa Pope, fiancé of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.
- Niece of Elaine McIntyre, Patsy McIntyre Costin, diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Terry Pitt, Collene Hedden's brother -in-law, with auto-immune disease.
- Vicki, Kristiina Herbst's neighbor, with health concerns.
- Beulah & Mark who are having health and life difficulties.



St. George is a warm, friendly, spirit-filled congregation that has been blessed throughout many years. Most Christian denominations develop a distinct emphasis of the Christian faith and practice, and this is also true for Lutherans.

The Lutheran emphasis, in a word, is God's grace.

We emphasize the grace of God which forgives us, makes us God's children, and empowers us to serve others. **We welcome, include, and value all people.**