

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

925 E. 9th St., Lockport, IL 815-838-0708 www.shepherdofthehill.com

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 21/22, 2020 Jon Pedersen, Pastor Ellen D. Schroll, Minister of Music Sue Hoff, Vicar David Rhodes, Organist

Invocation: L: We begin in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: God Is Here – ELW #526, verse 1 & 4.

 God is here! As we, your people, meet to offer praise and prayer, May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts wait the coming Of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

4. Lord of all, of Church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt Keep us faithful to the Gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!.

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Confession and Forgiveness:

Gracious and Powerful God,

We confess to you our restlessness and anxiety - our fear for the future that wakes us up at night and puts our minds on a treadmill; our fear that we haven't done enough to protect our kids, our parents, our spouse, our boss, ourselves; We confess to you our fear that we won't be able to provide for college for our kids, for retirement for ourselves, for just putting food on the table and making the mortgage and car payments.

We confess our temptation to think only about ourselves when there is much fear and suffering around us. We confess that we have had the tendency to drown out your voice in our lives by our busyness and over-commitment, by constant running and endless noise.

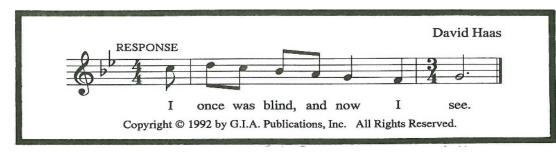
We confess all of this to you. Save us from our fear, save us from ourselves. Have mercy on us.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbor, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

Gospel reading: John 9:1-41



Message:

Prayers of the People:

L: Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 76)*

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. We pray these things in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray,

C: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Benediction

Hymn: Lead Me, Guide Me – ELW #768

Chorus

Lead me, guide me along the way, For if you lead me I cannot stray. Lord let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

Verse 1: I am weak and I need thy strength and power To help me o-ver my weakest hour Lead me through the darkness thy face to see Lead me oh lord lead me. *Chorus*

Verse 2: Help me tread in the paths of righteousness. Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all my trust in Thee: Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *Chorus*

Verse 3: I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without Thy light to see. Lord just always to me thy servant be, Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *Chorus*

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L: You have been called. You have been gathered (digitally). You have been equipped. Now you are being sent. Go in peace to serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!