



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072
(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org | March 18th, 2026

UNBOUND; Longing for Community

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS⁺ (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

We confess to you, most loving God, the sins that both bind and scatter us. We have knowingly believed dishonest words. We have questioned your gracious power again and again. We have given in to temptation. We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart. In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. Gather us back to you. Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friends, beloved of God, Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him. In the name of ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit, and bring you to wholeness in abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#733

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.”

LITANY AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

God the Father, you desire the health and salvation of all people.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life and might have it more abundantly.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temples of your presence.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;
hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent the awareness of your presence;
hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering; grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying a peaceful, holy death, and with your grace strengthen those who mourn;
hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken in our lives, in this nation, and in the world;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Hear us, O Lord of life:

heal us, and make us whole.

God of the overlooked, **we long for you to notice us and find us, speak with us and heal us. When we are bound by fear or blame, grant us the wholeness to believe and accept one another. Lead us from assigning sin and fault, to asking where we each have seen God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

LESSON: John 9:1-41 (the lesson will be read together with Pr Diane as narrator, congregation in the pews to the left, as you face the altar, will read part 1 and congregation in the pews to the right will read part 2)

N: As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

1: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

N: 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,

1: "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

N: Some were saying,

1: "It is he."

N: Others were saying,

1: "No, but it is someone like him."

N: He kept saying,

2: "I am he."

N: But they kept asking him,

1: "Then how were your eyes opened?"

N: He answered,

2: "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."

N: They said to him,

1: "Where is he?"

N: He said,

2: "I do not know."

N: 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,

2: "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

N: Some of the Pharisees said,

1: "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath."

N: Others said,

1: "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

N: And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

1: "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

N: He said,

2: "He is a prophet."

N: 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,

1: "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

N: 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,

1: "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

N: He answered,

2: "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

N: They said to him,

1: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

N: He answered them,

2: "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?"

N: Then they reviled him, saying,

1: "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."

N: The man answered,

2: "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."

N: They answered him,

1: "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?"

N: 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?" The man answered,

2: "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

N: Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said,

2: "Lord, I believe."

N: 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,

1: "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

N: Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

SERMON

Longing for Community

HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#656

APOSTLES CREED (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

p. 105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, hear **our prayer.**

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN**“Create in Me”****#188****OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER**p. 112**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING⁺

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life, open your senses to the mystery of God’s grace, enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ’s love, and give you confidence in the Spirit’s power to unbind and grant new life. May the Holy Trinity, † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN:**“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”****#742****SENDING⁺****p. 155**

Go in peace. Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.

Thanks be to God.

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