



March 19, 2023 - 10:30 AM
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Words of Greeting and Life of the Church

L: Blessings to you, servants of God.

P: We lift up our hands and bless the Lord!

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Prayer of the Day

Prelude

Shout to the Lord (Hymn #133)
Katie Meyers, violin

arr. Phillip Keveren

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

L: God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart.

1 Sam. 16:7

**P: Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

John 9:5

L: Once we lived in darkness, but now—
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.

Eph. 5:8-9

**P: Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

(Please remain standing)

Opening Hymn #489

Heavenly Sunlight

SUNLIGHT

(Please be seated)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

we are people who still love darkness rather than light.

John 3:19

We keep shameful deeds secret,

Eph. 5:12

but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.

We see ourselves as blameless,

but pass judgment on others.

**We do not stand firmly enough with those who
are vulnerable,**

John 9:21-22

but step back, protecting ourselves.

Forgive us, we pray.

**Bring us into your light that we may
see ourselves rightly.**

**Bring us into your light that we may
know ourselves loved.**

**Bring us into your light that we may
live more fruitful lives.**

Eph. 5:9, 14b

**Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,
and shine upon us with your grace.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.**

(Silent Confession)

L: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gloria Patri, Hymn #670

GLORIA PATRI (GRETOREX)

Declaration of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

(Please be seated)

Anthem

Lord, Have Mercy
Katie Meyers, violin

arr. Lloyd Larson

Call to Offering

Offertory

Day by Day (Hymn #517)
Katie Meyers, violin

arr. Joshua Evanovich

(Please stand as you are able)

Doxology, Hymn #668

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication
(Please be seated)

The Word

Reading of Scripture

Ephesians 5:8-14

8 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

L: The Word of our Lord.

P: Thanks be to God!

(Please remain seated)

Lenten Response, Hymn #89

Shine on Us

SHINE ON US

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

John 9:1-41

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the

light of the world.” 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

18 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 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 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?” 28 And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30 The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were

not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

P: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“New Light to the Blind”
The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day #443

Open My Eyes, That I May See

SCOTT

Affirmation of Faith

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Prayers of the People, concluded with The Lord's Prayer in unison:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

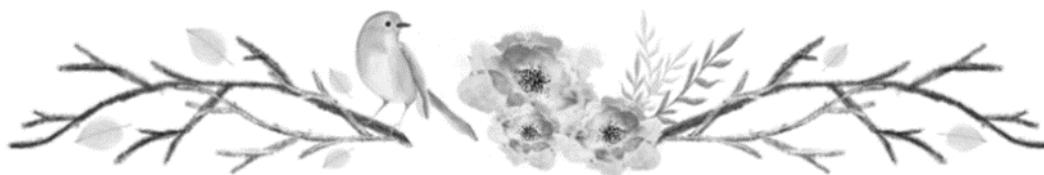
**Sending
Charge**

Benediction

Postlude

Great Is the Lord (Hymn #61)
Jim & Eileen Klein

arr. Phillip Keveren



Flowers today are in celebration of Dick and Carolyn Peterson's 50th anniversary!

Assisting in Worship:

Liturgist: Beth Wingate

Ushers: Larry & Shirley Culver

Greeter and Coffee Fellowship Coordinator: Karen Thorstad

Mountain Reformed Church

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Welcome to Mountain Reformed Church

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today! The vision of our church is to provide an open door to relationship with God for all through worship, teaching God's Word, and by celebrating with music and the arts. Our mission is simple: All Glory to God! Our church is independent and non-denominational, with a theology based in the reformed way of being Christian. Please see our website at www.mountainreformed.org for more information about our church.

We are Moving April 2nd

Beginning April 2nd (Palm Sunday), we will begin meeting at The Event Spot, 6520 E. 1st St., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. Thanks to the efforts of Larry Culver and Murry Williams, we were able to secure a 1-year lease at this new location for our Sunday worship services (with option to renew). We are excited to begin this next chapter in our journey together as the body of Christ!

Become a Member of Mountain Reformed Church

Mountain Reformed Church is establishing a membership. All who are interested or desire to become a member of Mountain Reformed Church are encouraged to add your name to the sign-up sheet at the usher's table. This is a crucial and exciting step in the development and establishment of our congregation. More details about membership will be coming soon!

Let Go for Lent

Next Sunday, March 26th, is your last chance to bring bags filled with clean, gently used clothes and linens to be donated to local thrift stores. Thank you for all the bags you have filled and returned already!

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, please check our website (www.mountainreformed.org) for service updates or cancellation notices. Board members will also personally call those that are listed in our directory.

Facility Fund

We are growing! MRC is now looking for a semi-permanent location and we are creating a facility fund to support this effort. If you would like to contribute, please write "facility fund" on your offering envelope.

Pastor on Call

The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm is the Pastor on Call. If you would like to get in touch, feel free to email eugenegrimm@me.com or call 928-925-6057.

MRC Name Badges

If you would like an MRC name badge, please send your name as it should appear to Mary Bricker: marybricker18@gmail.com and she will have one made.

MRC Bulletin and Weekly Email

Would you like to place an announcement in the Sunday bulletin or “This Week at Mountain Reformed Church” email? Please send your info to Ryan Gastonguay at ryan@mountainreformed.org. The deadline is Monday evening of each week for the coming weekend, but we always appreciate as much notice as possible.

Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain

Prayer cards are now available at the usher’s table. If you would like to be a part of our prayer ministry and prayer chain, please indicate this on your welcome card. Lyndi Peacock coordinates this ministry, and she will send prayer requests to you by email: lyndi@milehighlending.com. You can also call or text Lyndi at 928-899-2085.

Card Ministry

Cards for encouragement, celebration, sympathy, get well, birthdays, and more can be mailed out via our Card Ministry. Sheri Simpson, Carolyn Peterson, Lyndi Peacock, and Beth Wingate are coordinating this ministry and can always use donations of cards and stamps. Please let us know if you have someone whose day would be brightened by receiving a card from Mountain Reformed Church! Please email Sheri: charlieandsheri@gmail.com.

Flowers

Sheri Simpson coordinates our Flower Ministry. If you would like to commemorate a special occasion by providing flowers, please ask an usher to guide you to the flower sign-up chart.

3/12/2023 Worship Attendance: 77
Bank Balances as of 3/15/2023: \$66,318

