

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 18 & 19, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

To reflect God's love through service to the family of God.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Tony Dusso
Preaching Minister—Pastor Jason Poole-Xiong
Organist—Cheryl Licary
AV Assistant—Grant Dusso

5:00 pm service

Assisting Minister—Lynette Rust
Lector—Lynette Rust
Usher—Nancy Schmidt

8:30 am service

Acolyte—Milton Dodson
Assisting Minister—Nancy Ribbeck
Communion Assistant—Deanna Feuerstein
Communion Prep—Pat Brogan
Lector—Deanna Feuerstein
Ushers—Terry Amundson and Bob Pederson

10:30 am service

Acolyte—Avery Lovejoy
Assisting Minister—Megan Nelson
Communion Assistant—Mark Sorenson
Communion Prep—Erin and Jason Parker
Lector—Mark Sorenson
Ushers—Skip Rath and Gary Chilson

INTRODUCTION

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.**

P: Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,
† forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

LENTEN HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart—W&P 35

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve
you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that
I might be re - newed. So fill me and
heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -
ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

Text/Music: Mary Rice Hopkins
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LENTEN DIALOGUE

P: For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light.

C: I am the world's light.

P: How did your eyes get opened?

C: I did what Jesus said. When I washed, I saw.

P: I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day.

C: So that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind.

GATHERING HYMN

As the Winter Days Grow Longer—ACS 924



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody Arr. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress

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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

P: Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ,

C: 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.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

L: A reading from Samuel.

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.' ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?"

⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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." ¹²He 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." ¹³Then 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.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

We read Psalm 23 responsively:

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**
- ³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.**
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

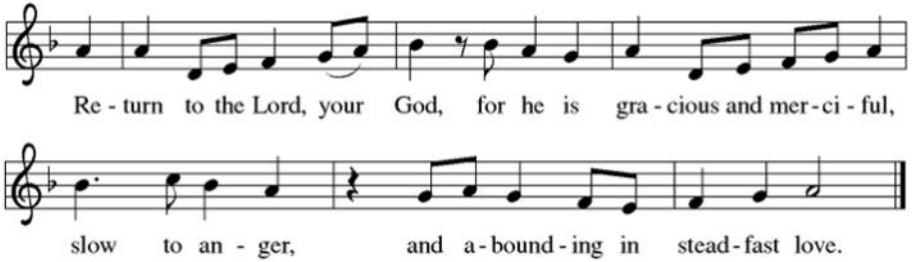
L: A reading from Ephesians.

- ⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.
- ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for 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.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The Gospel reading and sermon will be intertwined in an effort we hope will provide depth and perspective to the narrative of the blind man.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus 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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jason Poole-Xiong

Please rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace—ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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,
he 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

A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community especially Caritas and Second Harvest. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.** After the sharing of the peace, you may be seated.*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.

Please rise.

OFFERTORY

In This Feast of Love—ACS 962

1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

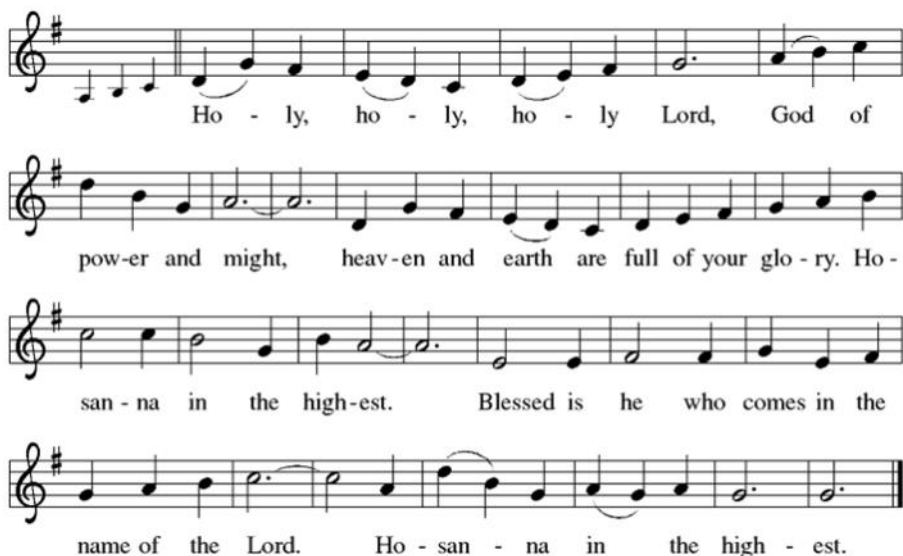
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God... in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C:



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please rise.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Faithful God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 am)

SENDING

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision—ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Public domain

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Throughout the Lenten season, join us for soup every **Wednesday beginning at 6:00 pm, following by Worship at 7:00 pm.** We use the Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy for these services. This beautiful setting breaks into our soul with the music and prayers that express our hope in Christ.

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK IS COMING!

We will be serving the homeless families of Beloit-**March 26 to April 1** from 5-9 each night. Serve the whole evening or half an evening (5-7 or 7-9pm). Volunteer opportunities are posted on the bulletin board in the Commons or contact Jane Lang at jiang@hononegah.org.

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Our Winter Bible Study on the Bible and Handel's Messiah continues Sunday, March 19 at 9:30 in the Chapel. All are welcome to come take part. Recordings of previous sessions can be found on Our Savior's YouTube channel.

FAREWELL FOR PASTOR JASON

On Pastor Jason's last Sunday with us, **March 26**, we will be holding a Farewell Coffee Hour between services. Come and express your gratitude and well wishes to Pastor Jason as we celebrate his ministry with us. A service of Godspeed will be included in the 10:30 am service as his time with us comes to a close. Representing the synod, Pastor Walter Baires, Associate to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, will be our guest for that service.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

High school seniors and students currently enrolled in college may apply for an OSLC Scholarship - visit www.oursaviorshbeloitwi.org/scholarships for all of the details. **The deadline for applications is April 21, 2023.** No applications will be accepted after this date. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Ribbeck or Pastor Jason.

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Sunday morning services (8:30 am and 10:30 am) are livestreamed and available on our YouTube channel. For your convenience, links and bulletins are posted on our webpage - visit oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship.

Calendar

Saturday	March 18	5:00 pm	Worship
Sunday	March 19	8:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm	Worship Bible Study Coffee Hour Faith Builders Worship Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Monday	March 20	8:30 am	Sewing Bee
Tuesday	March 21	9:30 am 11:00 am 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Staff Meeting Pastors Text Study Elizabeth Circle Property Meeting Boy Scouts Dartball
Wednesday	March 22	5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:45 pm	Televised Worship (Ch. 992) Soup Supper Lenten Midweek Worship Choir
Thursday	March 23	6:00 pm	Board Meeting
Saturday	March 25	5:00 pm	Worship
Sunday	March 26	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm	Worship Coffee Hour for Pastor Jason Faith Builders Worship Televised Worship (Ch. 992)

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for next Sunday by studying the scriptures.

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8:6-11
- John 11:1-45

STAY CONNECTED

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office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org
Senior Pastor: Tony Dusso
Assoc. Pastor: Jason Poole-Xiong



www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org



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@oursaviorsbeloit

ONLINE GIVING ►



BEYOND SUNDAY

DWELL IN THE WORD AND NOTICE
HOW IT CONNECTS WITH YOUR LIFE

Lent used to be the time to give up desserts, alcohol, or other indulgences as a sign of penitence and preparation for the events of Holy Week. Somewhere along the line, "giving up" something changed to "taking on" something, such as a spiritual practice. Today, we may find ourselves understanding Lent as a time to search out "what is pleasing to the Lord" (Eph. 5:10), that which is "good and right and true" (Eph. 5:9). What are changes you could make in your life this Lent to improve your wellness, relationships, and happiness? What attitudes or ideas no longer fit who you are and hold you back? May Lent continue to be a time for searching out what good things God has in store for you.

