

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

March 22, 2020
4th Sunday in Lent

*This bulletin is for a home service.

- *Prepare to worship God with your body and spirit. Gather together with your family members at a place where it is appropriate for worshipping God.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The passing of the Peace is a time to briefly greet your family members with the peace of Christ. "Peace be with You!"

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Draw near to the light of God's love; flock to the One who leads us by still waters.

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want. God is light for all who are stumbling in darkness.

Awake, all who are sleeping through God's wonders; look around you and observe the light Christ gives.

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world and our light.

The God revealed in Jesus Christ is our host. We are guests of One who feeds and heals us.

We have come to worship the God of mercy. We are here to be fed and enlightened. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *When Love Is Found* **UMH 643**
(You may choose another song as you prefer.)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We are here, Almighty God, because you have called us. Help us to be fully present to your gracious hospitality. There is much in our lives to distract us; the work we do, the difficulties we encounter, the losses we have sustained. We are sometimes overwhelmed by

all we must face. Please come to us, and give us peace and mercy and to all who have fear and concern due to Coronavirus 19, and send us your healing power so we may worship you in spirit and truth, and serve your ministry. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 9:1-41
See Insert

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Everything is the Grace of God" **Pastor Jenny Lee**
(One of your family members may read my written sermon.)

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Eye-opening God, whose compassion reaches out to all who walk in darkness, help us to recognize the blind spots in our lives. Keep us from aimless wandering, from narrow judgments, from unfruitful works and underhanded methods. We want to walk as children of light, to be instruments of healing, to recognize your activity among us. Illuminate and enlighten us now, that we may express faith in Christ through all we say and do. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Please prepare an offering, and send it to the church, or bring it to the church later when you come to the church next.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Loving God, for your goodness and mercy that overflow through our lives and equip us to share, we give thanks. No sacrifice can match your generosity; no offering is adequate to express our gratitude. We bring ourselves with our gifts, that all may be consecrated anew to your service. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*HYMN *Standing on the Promises* UMH 374

*LORD'S PRAYER Unison

God bless you, and stay well!

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ONE Parish THREE Churches

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The United Methodist Church

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*THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed 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** 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, **7** saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8** 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?” **9** Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” **10** But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” **11** 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.” **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** 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.” **16** Some 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. **17** 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.”

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 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.” **22** 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. **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 they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” **25** He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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** Then 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, “Here is an astonishing 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 he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. **32** Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” **34** They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36** He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” **37** Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” **38** He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. **39** 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.” **40** Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” **41** Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.