



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org | March 22, 2020 | Issue #689

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR JOURNEY IN JESUS – HIS GLORY REVEALED!

In today's Gospel lesson from John 9, Jesus is "passing by." He is on a journey together with his disciples, and yet He sees a man blind from birth. While the disciples misinterpret the moment as an occasion to muse on a devastating ailment and its cause, Jesus observes this particular man as the very focus of God's work of restoring His creation.

Most journeys involve an opportunity to see something that is not a part of our normal everyday activity. A trip or vacation is a great time to see something new. Our children are coming up on spring break. This year is unlikely to include a trip, but these unprecedented days of COVID-19 have already allowed us to spend more time together and to see and do things we don't normally do. As a congregation, our theme for this 40-day Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb is "Our Journey in Jesus." While we haven't been able to spend time together physically, this is still an opportunity for us to see things we might otherwise miss or not pay attention to as we focus our view on the cross and ponder its cause.

One way to interpret the cross and its underlying cause might be to only focus on our sin. Indeed, Jesus' suffering was caused by God's desire to remove our sin. As Paul says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Yet it is the second part of this verse we see as the focus this morning. On this dusty path as Jesus moves to the cross, He reveals in His own actions the work and glory of God. While the disciples could only see the blindness of the man, Jesus sees the man. The man's

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
(to be available online)

7:30 p.m. AA and Al Anon

blindness is the very point where our Lord works and reveals His glory.

What do we see? What catches our attention? Of course, we can see the devastating results of our sin all around us. Our world is far from perfect. We struggle to let go of the created objects of our making that we had counted on to give us peace and joy. But can we also see that this is why Jesus came? Can we see in the man born blind God's desire to work in our lives so that His glory can be seen by all? Are we ready and willing to be connected to Jesus and Him alone? Are we ready to worship the Creator rather than His creation?

Today may seem to be filled with many questions. But Jesus sees us. He is with us now giving us His peace. As we go through the day-to-day activities of this week, we pray that Jesus would open our eyes to see what God is doing in our lives. In the challenges and difficulties we face each day, we ask Him to reveal His glory in Jesus and our journey in Him.

Pastor Carl

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

Thank you for your role in keeping ILC's ministry ongoing.
CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Since our services have temporarily migrated to a virtual format, we will not be listing worship assistants here. However, if you are interested in serving as a worship volunteer for when we resume our normal schedule, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN SEASON

Devotionals can be downloaded through *The Messenger* (online version) as well as the website.

ON THE WEB

Go to <http://international.lcms.org/asia> to check out an article written about ILC.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE CHANGE

All weekday Bible studies (Wednesday evening and Friday morning) have been canceled until further notice. Please watch for additional updates through ILC email, the website and our Facebook page.

READINGS

Mar 22: 4th Sunday in Lent

OT	Isaiah 42:14-21
NT	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel	John 9:1-41

Mar 29: 5th Sunday in Lent

OT	Ezekiel 37:1-14
NT	Romans 8:1-11
Gospel	John 11:1-45

