



**The Man Sick of the Palsy**

# Welcome to the Lord's House

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012  
Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
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Prelude

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray to our merciful Father to forgive and restore us  
(pause)

God of love and compassion, you are slow to anger but rich in mercy. Who can forgive like you, wholeheartedly and without regret? When we repent, you do not remember our sins but only the good we have done. In our humiliation and shame we pray you: touch us with your healing hand, set us free from our self-made prisons, and give us the joy and freedom brought us by Jesus Christ our Lord. **R/ Amen.**

## Opening Hymn WOV 649: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Sometimes we encounter people who are paralyzed by the past; some have, so to speak, withdrawn from life because they cannot overcome their failures and they have given up. Others want to start afresh, but those around them nail them to their past and do not offer them new chances. God is different. To God, by-gones are by-gones. He not only forgives but wipes out the past of the sinner who repents. Even the invitation and strength to repent comes from God through Jesus Christ. All he wants is to make a new beginning with people. Let us celebrate in this Eucharist with joy Christ's forgiving and up-building love, get up from our paralyzing fears and go with him new roads of hope and love.

Let us recognize truthfully and humbly that we have often failed the Lord and ask him for forgiveness and strength.

(pause)

Lord, you took our sins upon yourself to reconcile us with you and one another, but we often imprison people within their failures. Lord, have mercy. **R/ Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus Christ, you are attentive to every sign of sorrow and conversion, but we easily condemn and do not forget hurt feelings: Christ, have mercy. **R/ Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you want to go with us new ways of friendship and hope, but we refuse to say the liberating word that restores people: Lord, have mercy. **R/ Lord, have mercy.**

Have mercy on us, Lord, do not remember our past; forgive us our sins and go with us the new way that leads to everlasting life. **R/ Amen.**

## First Reading Introduction: Not The Past But The Future

*God does not want us to live in the past of our failures, but to go with his new ways toward the future.*

### First Reading: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25

Thus says the LORD: Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. The people I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob, for you grew weary of me, O Israel. You burdened me with your sins, and wearied me with your crimes. It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more.

## Hymn

### Second Reading Introduction: Constant, Because Of Christ

*Paul asserts that he is firm and constant because of the strength of Christ in him. God makes us firm in Christ whose attitude was the "Yes" of faithfulness.*

### Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18-223

Brothers and sisters:

As God is faithful,

our word to you is not "yes" and "no."

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,

who was proclaimed to you by us, Silvanus and Timothy and me,

was not "yes" and "no," but "yes" has been in him.

For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him;

therefore, the Amen from us also goes through him to God for glory.

But the one who gives us security with you in Christ

and who anointed us is God;

he has also put his seal upon us

and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

### Gospel Introduction: A Paralytic Can Walk Again

*Jesus makes the paralytic walk again. By his power, those paralyzed by sin can again go the way to God.*

### Gospel Reading: Mk 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "**Child, your sins are forgiven.**" Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "**Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?**" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "**Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth**" —he said to the paralytic, "**I say to you, rise,**

**pick up your mat, and go home.”** He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, **“We have never seen anything like this.”**

## **The Message**

The Apostle’s Creed describes the faith into which we are baptized and therefore let us join together in confessing our faith according to the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

### **Offering**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**With all the trust of the paralytic’s friends, let us bring before the Lord the needs and miseries of the Church and of the world.**

- **That the Church, aware of its own shortcoming and missed chances, may humbly offer forgiveness and strength to all who err, and become in the world a sign and instrument of reconciliation, let us pray: R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

- **That nations may abandon the senseless race for advanced weapons that allow them to destroy one another; that together they may search for peace and cooperate in projects that benefit all, let us pray: R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

- **That our homes may be places of mutual understanding and reconciliation; that the young may learn from their parents and each other to forget injuries and to accept and love one another in their diversity and individuality, let us pray: R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

- **That we may show special love and care for the handicapped, for children who will never be able to play, for those who will never see God’s colorful world, for those who will never hear songs of joy, let us pray: R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

- **That in all Christian communities we may be less concerned about our rights and our offended pride, but rather, give Christ’s love a fair chance to grow among us and to create us anew, let us pray: R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

**Father, you are so good that our sins become small in comparison. Help us to say our yes to you and to all that is good, by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord, who has also taught us to pray,**

**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 that 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,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Benediction:**

**C. Amen**

**Closing Hymn**

**Go In Peace and Serve the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## **Lent Season**

The Lent season begins this Wednesday, Feb. 22,  
Youth Group will meet at 5 p.m.  
Pancake Supper at 6 p.m.  
Lenten Gathering after the supper

## **We accept Thrivent Choice Dollars.**

If you have insurance through Thrivent, you may have received a letter stating you have Choice Dollars. You can choose Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont, for those Choice Dollars. For more information, contact Paul.

## **Pierpont opening on the Bethesda Board of Directors**

The board member who represents your church will be expected to attend our monthly board meeting which is on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 12:00 to 1:00 with lunch provided. We do not usually meet in December. The board meetings typically last one hour but there are times where it may go until 1:30 but that is 1 or 2 meetings per year. While we would like our board members to attend every monthly meeting, we do have members who are farmers or live down south 2 or 3 months a year and we are fine with them missing meetings when times are busy or they are away. Once or twice a year board members are invited to events hosted by Sanford Health (Bethesda is managed by Sanford Health) in Sioux Falls (expenses paid by Sanford) if they would like to attend. I would be happy to speak to your board or answer any questions that potential board members might have.

Thank you,  
Dave Rogers

## Word Search Puzzle

from [www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/](http://www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/)  
free to distribute for free with this notice  
Words are in a straight line in all directions

**(Mark 2:4) And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. (NRSV)**

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Y E V M N V W R O A  
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