

Lenten Worship through the Senses: Week 1, Sight

*St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Wednesday, March 12, 2025*

PRELUDE

Abide with Me, arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Lindsey Lane, piano

The assembly stands.

GATHERING LITANY

For these forty days, we journey with Jesus down the Lenten path.
As we gather, we seek to experience the ways Christ's embodied
life demonstrates God's love for us.

We come with hearts open to learn.

We will listen to stories of Jesus' life and of God's people, because
they teach us how God calls us to live in the world.

**We come to learn from the stories of God's ancient people,
Christ's life, and the church.**

We will engage through our senses with the power and mystery of
the world God made, because this exploration calls us into
wonder.

We come to learn through the gifts of our senses.

We will light candles to remind each other of the fullness of
Christ's presence with us in our worship and in our world.

**We come to learn how to better see and reflect the light of
Christ.**

We will pray as Jesus taught us and send each other back into
daily life with a deeper connection to the life and love of Jesus.

**We come to learn how to live more fully in the embodied image
of God.**

OPENING PRAYER

God incarnate,
you have given us eyes to see your presence and love in the details of creation and in the creativity of those made in your image. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive the gifts you have for us, and teach us to share these gifts with the world.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory
ELW #561

The assembly is seated.

READING

Luke 19:1-10

As we hear the account of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, consider the way in which the desire to see and the willingness to see unexpected things play out in this story.

A reading from Luke.

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION STATIONS

Verbal introduction of the stations concludes with the following dialogue:

God gave us eyes to see the diversity of the world.
Our eyes are open for the lessons God provides.

The assembly stands.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE EMBODIED GOD

God has created and blessed us. In Jesus, God has joined us in the experience of embodied life as an expression of God's own love and joy. Through exploration of our own physical senses we are invited to know God in new ways.

In thanksgiving for the gift of incarnation, we light our candles.

Pause for the sharing of the light.

Through the beauty of the candle's light,
**we see the brightness of God's love
shining in every darkness.**

Through the warmth of the candle's heat,
**we feel the strength of God's love
burning through all obstacles.**

In the scent of the candle's wax,
**we remember the promise that our prayers
rise up as incense to God.**

In the flavor of the candle's smoke on our breath,
**we taste the persistence of God's love,
surviving the flames and taking new form.**

In the sound of the candle's flame crackling,
**we hear the dance of God's love,
which we are invited to join.**

May the light, warmth, scent, flavor, and sound of our candles lead us deeper into the love of God today and always.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Candles may be extinguished.

SENDING HYMN

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended
ELW #569

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May the Creator God, who made you whole, bless you in body and in spirit now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace, open to the presence of Christ all around you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song, arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Lindsey Lane, piano

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