



[www.holyword.net](http://www.holyword.net)

*Today's Focus*

## **“SIGHT FOR THE BLIND”**

**MARCH 15, 2026**

**Welcome!** Holy Word is a community of Christians experiencing life together in the grace and peace of Jesus. Here you will find a family culture, easy access to Bible teaching at all levels, community connection, personable staff, and the unity of our belief and mission. Whether you are a first time guest, a seeker, skeptic or lost soul, or a long time Christian, we invite you to get to know us. Come as you are!

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**Connection Cards:** Welcome to all our guests and members this morning. We'd like to get to know you better. To help us, please fill out the connection card inside your worship folder. Prayer requests and feedback are also welcome. Place the card in the offering plates or hand it to an usher after the service. God bless your week!

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**Children in Worship:** We love kids in church and we love families worshipping together. To enhance the children's worship experience, we have a kids sermon during the service. We encourage parents to work through the service folder with their children to help them follow along. We have orange busy bags in the nursery available for the children. If your child needs a break from the service, feel free to use the Nursery (in the church lobby), hallways or fellowship hall, all are equipped with sound from the service.

# Welcome & Invocation

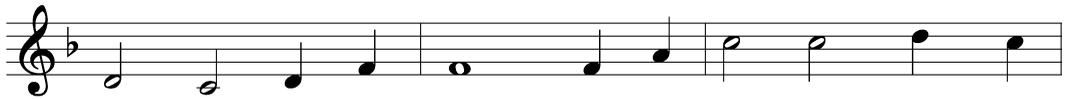
## Hymn: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness | Blue Hymnal 517



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -  
2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing  
gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the  
in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool  
may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing  
wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this  
glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.  
well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quen - ch - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

**Leader:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Group: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth.**

**In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

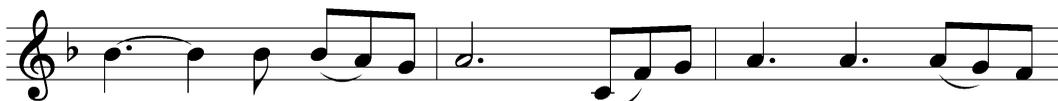
**Leader:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. God, our Heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Group: Amen.**

# Hymn: I Will Sing of My Redeemer | Blue Hymnal 527



1 I will sing of my Re - deem - er, and his  
2 I will tell the won - drous sto - ry, how, my  
3 I will praise my dear Re - deem - er, his tri -



won - drous love to me; on the cru - el cross he  
lost es - tate to save, in his bound - less love and  
um - phant pow'r I'll tell, how the vic - to - ry he



suf - fered, from the curse to set me free.  
mer - cy, he the ran - som free - ly gave.  
giv - eth o - ver sin and death and hell.



Sing, O sing of my Re - deem - er, with his



blood, he pur - chased me. On the cross he sealed my



par - don, paid the debt, and made me free.

Text: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876, abr.  
Tune: James McGranahan, 1840–1907  
Text and tune: Public domain

## First Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

*Elder Bill Starke*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have kept silent,  
I have been quiet and held myself back.  
But now, like a woman in childbirth,  
I cry out, I gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste the mountains and hills  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn rivers into islands  
and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,  
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;  
I will turn the darkness into light before them  
and make the rough places smooth.  
These are the things I will do;  
I will not forsake them.

<sup>17</sup>But those who trust in idols,  
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'  
will be turned back in utter shame.

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf;  
look, you blind, and see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
and deaf like the messenger I send?  
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,  
blind like the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup>You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;  
your ears are open, but you do not listen."

<sup>21</sup>It pleased the LORD  
for the sake of his righteousness  
to make his law great and glorious.

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup>This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”



## Children's Message

*Young worshipers are invited to the front of the church for a Bible message just for them.*



## Hymn: Amazing Grace | Blue Hymnal 576



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



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



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

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790  
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

*Pastor Don Patterson*

<sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

<sup>3</sup>"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

<sup>6</sup>After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup>"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup>Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

<sup>34</sup>To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

<sup>36</sup>"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

<sup>37</sup>Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

<sup>38</sup>Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

## **Jesus Makes Sense of Our Nonsense!**

- I. By glorifying his works of deliverance.**
- II. By letting us struggle to understand him.**
- III. By telling us plainly that he is our Savior.**

**Sermon study questions for Connect Group discussion, & for personal reflection:**

1. Read John 9, the entire chapter. Notice how Jesus is working hard for the people to believe that he is the Messiah because of his miracle.
2. What question did the disciples ask and what was Jesus' answer?
3. How does Jesus' answer increase our trust in God?
4. What do you think caused the Pharisees from the synagogue to reject Jesus and his miracle as a good thing?
5. Why did Jesus circle back to find the man?
6. What does the contrast between spiritual blindness and literal blindness accomplish as Jesus teaches his people?
7. How does this story help us trust God in all circumstances, even difficult ones?

## Profession of Faith — Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

## Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Our Gift of Thanks

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

*During this time we collect financial offerings as gifts for the work of God at Holy Word. We will pass around the offering plates at this time. Anyone may also give online at [www.holyword.net](http://www.holyword.net).*

*For your convenience, you may also scan the image printed here with your phone. This QR code will take you directly to the church offering website. Please include your contact information if you would like to receive a statement of giving receipt.*



## **Offertory: Behold The Lamb Of God**

*We who walk in darkness deep  
Now see the light of morning  
The mighty God the Prince of Peace  
A child to us is born*

**Chorus:**

*Behold the Lamb of God  
Who takes away our sin  
Behold the Lamb of God  
The life and light of men  
Behold the Lamb of God  
Who died and rose again  
Behold the Lamb of God  
Who comes to take away our sin*

*Wand'ers in the wilderness  
Oh hear a voice is crying  
Prepare the way make straight the path  
Your king has come to die*

Chorus

*Son of God (Emmanuel)  
Son of Man (We praise you)  
Behold the Lamb  
The hope of man  
Behold the Lamb*

Chorus

# Blessing

## Hymn: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary | Blue Hymnal 409



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent



whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior  
pent - ant vow, as we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your  
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -



from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less death has brought us  
hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the  
life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, on - ly what your  
from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.  
grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

## Holy Word Happenings



**Lent Worship Services & Fellowship Meals:** — Join us at Holy Word on Wednesday evenings for our lenten worship series, “Across the Path of the Cross”. Gather for a pre-service fellowship meal starting at 5:30pm followed by the worship service at 7pm. **Menu for Wed. March 18: Chicken Salad wraps, chips, veggie tray & desert.** There will be a free will offering collected. *Please RSVP at the tables in the church lobby or hallway, or to [hello@holyword.net](mailto:hello@holyword.net).*

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**New & Current Usher Meeting TODAY:** Join Holy Word’s Usher Ministry and provide a warm welcome for our guests! This meeting is **for current ushers and anyone interested in ushering.** We will train on basic duties, security practices and allow time for questions as we head into the Easter season. Join us TODAY in the sanctuary after the worship service.

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**Divine Call — Pastor Patterson:** Pastor Patterson has received a Divine Call to join a five member team as a *Ministry Recruitment Counselor* in the WELS. His role would be to work with pastors, teachers, staff ministers and leading church members to find new recruits for the ministry. This would bring an end to his Call as District President and as pastor at Holy Word, but he would still be available to help out with preaching when available. Pastor would appreciate your prayers and input ([don@holyword.net](mailto:don@holyword.net)) as he and Mary deliberate this call. He plans to make a decision in about 3 weeks.

# Holy Week Schedule



- **Palm Sunday, March 29** at 9:30am: Join us as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The service includes a children's procession with palm branches and singing, and **Abbie McKenna** will be installed as our new HWELC Associate Director. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for refreshments and a Children's Art Showcase in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2** at 7pm: Join us for a special evening of worship with Holy Communion, commemorating the washing of feet and Last Supper of Jesus with his Apostles.
- **Good Friday, April 3** at 7pm: Gather around the cross for somber reflection on Christ's suffering and death before the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.
- **Easter Sunday, April 5:** Invite your friends to Easter at Holy Word.
  - Easter Sunrise Service** - 7am at Pioneer Farms (10621 Pioneer Farms Dr, Austin, 78754) with Easter egg hunt & continental breakfast.
  - Easter Potluck Brunch** - 8:30am served in the Holy Word Fellowship Hall.
  - Easter Festival Service** - 10am at Holy Word. Round our your morning with an inspirational Easter festival service.

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**Host Families Needed on April 6:** The Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus will present a sacred concert at Holy Word on Monday, April 6 at 6pm. After the concert, Holy Word families are needed to host the 59 chorus members. Do you have an extra bed for 1 night? Scan this QR code to find out more or sign up to host. Thank you for your Christian hospitality!



Host WLS students



**Easter Potluck Brunch:** Between the Easter services we will be having an Easter Potluck Brunch beginning at 8:30am in the fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite breakfast or brunch item to share. It can be anything from breakfast casserole to a fruit bowl, from eggs any style to oatmeal, muffins, pancakes or waffles. Any breakfast or brunch item is what we are looking for. Thank you!

### **Easter Sunday Volunteers Needed:**

We are looking for volunteers to help make this Easter celebration truly special! Whether you have an hour to spare or can dedicate the morning, your help will make a difference!

#### **Volunteer Opportunities Include:**

- **Set up / Take down**
- **Brunch Kitchen Helpers**
- **Help with Egg Hunt**
- **Easter yard sign placement**



If you're interested in volunteering or have any questions, please reach out to Chad at [\*\*chadwhite@holyword.net\*\*](mailto:chadwhite@holyword.net). Thank you for your support.



**YIC 2026 Mission Trip Donations:** Interested in contributing to Holy Word's teen group's mission trip to the Fort Apache Reservation in Whiteriver, AZ? Your gift will help pay for rental van transportation, food and supplies for the ten day mission trip in June. You can give via the [holyword.net](http://holyword.net) website or scan this QR Code. Thank you for your prayers and support of our teen ministry!

Contact Cindy White 512-925-5583 with any questions.



## Connect Groups



**Kids in Christ (K-4th grade):** Bring your friends and join us TODAY for a fun event celebrating the true meaning of Easter! We will have a devotion, an egg hunt and make Easter cards. Dinner is provided. We will meet from 4:30-6pm in the Holy Word Fellowship Hall. Contact Yessie with questions 818-823-6022.

**New! Moms Time Out:** Calling all Holy Word **MOMS!** Come enjoy a relaxed evening of fun, conversation, and a well-deserved night out. Thursday, March 19 at 7pm at Austin Beerworks (10300 Springdale Rd). Invite a fellow mom and we'll see you there! Contact Ashley Wildrick with any questions — [bisping921@gmail.com](mailto:bisping921@gmail.com).

**Women's Book Club:** Our next meeting will be this Friday, March 20 at 7pm, to discuss the book *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. New members are always welcome. Location: Di Michelson's house, 1205 E. Applegate Dr., in Austin. Contact Julie Wietzke at [juliewtx@outlook.com](mailto:juliewtx@outlook.com) to RSVP or for additional information.



### How Do I see all the options and Sign Up for a Connect Group?



1. Scan this QR code  
Or Goto [www.holyword.net/groups](http://www.holyword.net/groups).
2. Find your Group(s)
3. Email the Leader





**HWELC Happenings:** Enjoy some Holy Word Early Learning Center updates in our weekly newsletter by scanning this QR code.



March 2 – March 6

**HOLY WORD ANNIVERSARIES:**



<b>Carl and Tracy Fuhr</b>	<b>03/17/90</b>
<b>Glen and Lyn Ragan</b>	<b>03/21/92</b>
<b>Dan &amp; Melody Vos</b>	<b>03/21/81 (45th)</b>



**HOLY WORD BIRTHDAYS:**

<b>Phil Wroblewski</b>	<b>03/15</b>
<b>Karen Smith</b>	<b>03/17</b>
<b>Mary Patterson</b>	<b>03/20</b>

**Lost and Found:**

If you have recently lost or found anything at church, please come to the church office's lost and found to claim or drop them off.

**Recent "found" items:**

**Box of Colored Pencils & 2 Sets of Crayola Colored Pencils**



## Teen & Youth 2026 Summer Camps

**Registration opens this Wednesday March 18  
for the Summer Camps for Teens & Youth at Camp Shiloh!**

We are excited to invite you to our week-long camps engaging in a range of activities, from group discussions and Bible studies to swimming and camp fires, all designed to help us have fun while growing our relationships together and our relationship with Jesus.

**Teen Camp** (going into 9th-12th grades) - June 14-19, 2026

**Youth Camp** (going into 5th-8th grades) - June 21-26, 2026

For more **Information** and to **Register** scan the QR code  
or goto [www.campshilohretreat.org](http://www.campshilohretreat.org)



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ON GOOGLE MAPS**



SCAN ME

## **THIS WEEK AT HOLY WORD**

### **MONDAY**

6:00 pm Church Leadership Meeting (Conference Room)

### **TUESDAY**

10:00 am Women's Online Bible Study (Online)

6:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Gebert)

### **WEDNESDAY**

6:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast (Jim's Restaurant)

5:30 pm Lent Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Lent Worship service

8:00 pm Youth in Christ (Conference Room)

### **FRIDAY**

10:30 am Friday South Austin Bible Study (Siirila's house)

7:00pm Women's Book Club (Di Michelson's house)

### **SUNDAY**

9:30 am Worship & Communion

11:00 am Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Young Professionals Bible Study (Conference Room)

Moms the Word (Portable)

Teens Bible Study (Classrooms)

Catechism Class (Classrooms)

Kids Bible Study (Classrooms)

10:00 am Worship (Hope Fellowship in Jarrell)

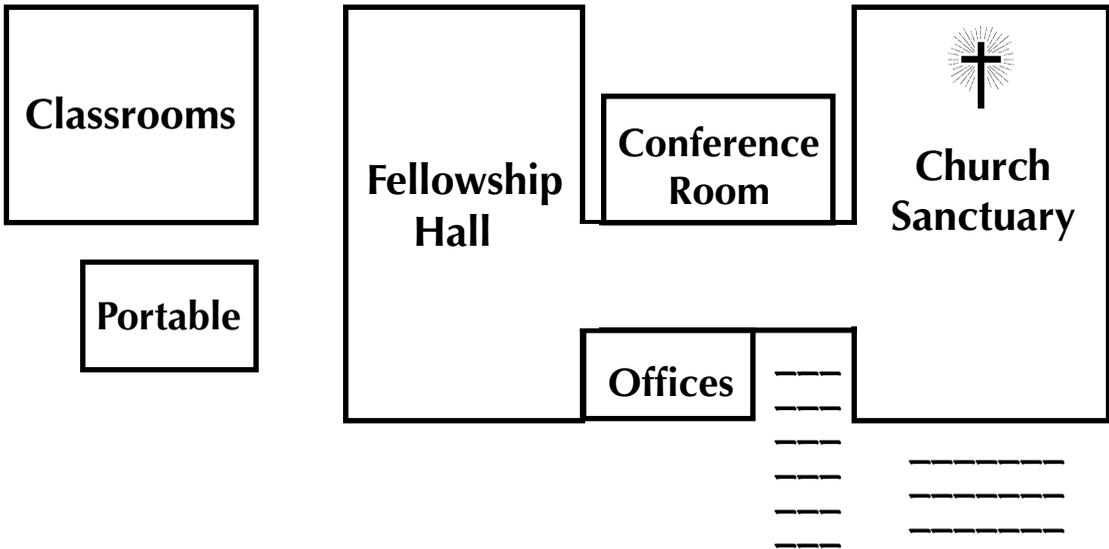
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# Holy Word Campus Map



- **Young Professionals Bible Study — Conference Room**
- **Adult Bible Study — Fellowship Hall**
- **Moms in the Word — Classrooms**
- **Teen Bible Study — Portable**
- **Catechism Class — Classrooms**
- **Kids Bible Study — Classrooms**