

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Lord Jesus, we are so blind. Our eyes work fine, but we struggle so much with how we see. We spend far too much time looking at ourselves. We spend too much time looking at others in judgment. Our nature gets in the way of seeing the world as you see it. Forgive us. Please, take our eyes off of ourselves and fix them on You. Then teach us to see others and ourselves as you see us: valuable and precious, desperately in need of patience, correction, forgiveness, and love. Give us your eyes that we may know and share your love. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

March 8, 2009

### Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

### Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

### Mark 8:22-25

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## Sermon Outline ~ March 8, 2009

### "Open Wide!" • "With Open Eyes"

Mark 8:22-25

Introduction: "You may think I have poor eyesight..."

1. When blindness = \_\_\_\_\_...

*"They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him." v.22*

- our eyes are \_\_\_\_\_.

2. When blindness = \_\_\_\_\_...

*He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see*

anything?" v.23

- others are \_\_\_\_\_.

3. But now I can (\_\_\_\_\_) see..?!

*He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." v.24*

- The Christian life is a \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I can see clearly now!!

*"Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly." v.25*

- The way \_\_\_\_\_ sees us -- and others...

**Answers to Sermon Outline:**

no vision, covered, poor vision, invisible or distorted, sorta, journey, Christ

#### THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.**

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**