

HOPE CHURCH



The Healed Blind Man Tells His Story to the Jews, James Tissot

October 5, 2025

Reflections

“We must therefore always see the kingdom of God as indissolubly connected to the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ words and deeds, miracles and parables, teaching and preaching, the kingdom of God was dynamically active and present among men.”

Anthony Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*

“It is particularly striking that all of Jesus’ miracles (with the one exception of the cursing of the fig tree) are miracles of *restoration* – restoration to health, restoration to life, restoration to freedom from demonic possession. Jesus’ miracles provide us with a sample of the meaning of redemption: a freeing of creation from the shackles of sin and evil and a reinstatement of creaturely living as intended by God.”

Al Wolters

“Grace cannot prevail ... until our lifelong certainty that someone is keeping score has run out of steam and collapsed.”

Robert Capon

“Behold the One beholding you, and smiling.”

Anthony DeMello

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

I want to see You

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the humble;

He casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God on the lyre!

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Come Thou Fount

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it;
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace, now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander — Lord, I feel it —
prone to leave the God I love:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it!
Seal it for Thy courts above!

PRAISE SONG

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away

Washed away

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
Washed away

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Save us, oh God, from the blindness,
Which is not even aware that it is sinning;
From the pride, which cannot admit that it is wrong;
From the self-will, which can see nothing but its own way;
From the self-righteousness, which can see no flaw within itself;
From the callousness, which has sinned so often that it has ceased to care;
From the evasion, which always puts the blame on some one or on some thing else;
Save us from the heart so hardened, that it cannot repent.

Give us at all times
Eyes which are open to our own faults;

A conscience which is sensitive and quick to warn;
A heart which cannot sin in peace, so that, in quick repentance,
we may find that your love is great enough to cover all our sin;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

RENEWAL SONG

Way Maker

You are here moving in our midst
We worship You, We worship You
You are here working in this place
We worship You, We worship You

You are Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness our God that is who You are
Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness our God that is who You are

You are here touching ev'ry heart
We worship You, we worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
We worship You, we worship You

You are here turning lives around
We worship You, we worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
We worship You we worship You

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

Even when I don't see it You're working

Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

INTRODUCTION OF THE FELLOWS

Alana Peters & Holden Brannan

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"That You May Believe: Are We Also Blind?"

David Speakman

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him.")

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

John 9:13-41

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Friends May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!
Now and forever
Now and forever, Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Behold

The empty filled the wounded healed
The broken back together
The poor are blessed the weary rest
We will dance forever

The blinded see the chained are free
The doubtful now believer
The outcast known the orphan home
You are my Redeemer

Behold behold behold what love can do
Behold behold He's making all things new

The lost return the voiceless heard
The mourner now rejoicing
The mountains shake the world awake
Creation all composing

The sad untrue the earth renewed
The song has found its singer
The darkness light the dead alive
You are my Redeemer

We've been struck down we're not destroyed
We've sown in tears we'll reap in joy
We've been struck down we're not destroyed
We've sown in tears we'll reap in joy

My eyes are open

SENDING

SENDING SONG

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day;
There, God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

I am bound (I am bound); I am bound (I am bound);
I am bound for the promised land
I am bound (I am bound); I am bound (I am bound);
I am bound for the promised land

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness and sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blest?
When shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest?

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

LIFE TOGETHER

FAMILY UPDATES

Ordination of Phil Nichols to the office of Deacon Oct. 12 during the late service.

SERVE

Crayon Drive for Speas Elementary during the month of October! Bins by office.

WS Jail and Prison Ministry Toiletries Drive sign-up in Looking Up.

Street School Rummage Sale - Oct. 17-18. Donate, volunteer, shop: Link in Looking Up.

CHURCH LIFE

New Adult Sunday School Classes begin today. 'Let's Study Hebrews' led by Palmer Robertson, 'How to Talk about Jesus' led by Hope Pastors.

Quarterly Missions Prayer Lunch - Today, 12:30pm, Upstairs: All welcome to join us.

Men's Meetup - Oct. 14 Noon: Barcelona Burger.

Fall Fest - Oct. 19 5:30-7pm: Dinner (BYOB), Live music + Games (costumes welcome).

Church Directory Form - Complete form by Oct. 20: Link in Looking Up.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Kids Praise - 1st & 3rd Sundays 4:30-5:30pm: 3rd-5th grade. Begins today.

Kids Connection - *October Verse* - But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 9/30	Difference	
Income	\$956,176	\$909,594	\$46,582	5.12%
Expense	\$1,004,082	\$1,106,656	-\$102,574	-9.27%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$47,906	-\$197,062	\$149,155	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

**Making Room
for More**

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,791,000