

Lententide

MARCH 8, 2026 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (OCULI)



FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE COSMIC POWERS OVER THIS PRESENT DARKNESS, AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

– EPHESIANS 6:12

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE

“Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved.” - Augsburg Confession. Article XXIV. The Mass. 1-2a.



PRELUDE

Detroit, Windham (Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive, LSB 843)

We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died, LSB 429

Settings by Carl Schalk

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 668

“Rise to Arms! With Prayer Employ You”



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em-ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure And bold - ly strive for
3 Wise - ly fight, for time is fleet - ing; The hours of grace are



foe de-stroy you; For Sa - tan has de-signed your fall.
heav'n-ly trea - sure. Be stead-fast in the Sav - ior's might.
fast re - treat - ing; Short, short is this our earth - ly way.



Wield God's Word, the weap - on glo - rious; A - gainst all foes be
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, For Je - sus from all
When the Lord the dead will wak - en And sin - ners all by



thus vic - to - rious, For God pro-TECTS you from them all.
harm will hide you. By faith you con-quer in the fight.
fear are shak - en, The saints with joy will greet that day.



Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Em - man - u - el.
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!
Praise God, our tri - umph's sure. We need not long en - dure



Hail the Sav - ior! The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield,
Joy a - waits you. The race well run, Your long war won,
Scorn and tri - al. Our Sav - ior King His own will bring



And we, the vic - tors, hold the field.
Your crown shines splen - did as the sun.
To that great glo - ry which we sing.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Kneeling or sitting forward.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Tenth Commandment:

- *Am I discontented with the spouse the Lord God has given me?*
- *Am I discontented with the job I have or the employees I supervise?*
- *Have I neglected to urge someone to remain faithful to his or her spouse?*
- *Have I wanted my neighbor's husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend, workers or property to be mine?*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: Psalm 25:15-16



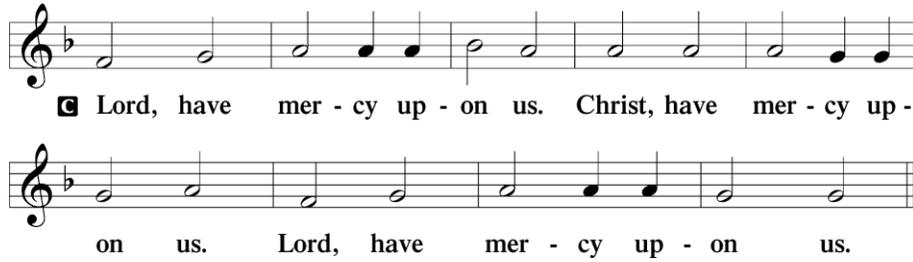
- L** My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.
- L** To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.
- C** **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.**
- L** The troubles of my heart | are enlarged,*
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.
- C** **Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.**
- L** Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.



- L** My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

During Advent and Lent, the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sitting



A The Prophecy for the Third Sunday in Lent is from Exodus, chapter eight.

A In those days: The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'" And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said. And the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him,

'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be."'" And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 9:19, 3



L Arise, O LORD! Let not | man prevail;*
let the nations be judged be- | fore you!

C When my enemies | turn back,*
they stumble and perish before your | presence.

- A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter five.
- A** Brethren: Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Standing

TRACT

Psalm 123:1-3a



- L** To you I lift | up my eyes,*
O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!
- C** **Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | master,***
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy up- | on us.
- L** Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,*
have mercy up- | on us.

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God**, *Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6*
the Father Almighty, *Psalms 89:26; Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:20*
maker of heaven and earth *Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; John 1:1*
and of all things visible and invisible. *2 Corinthians 4:18; Colossians 1:16*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, *1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:5; 1 Timothy 2:5*
the only-begotten Son of God, *John 1:14; 3:16, 18; Acts 13:33; 1 John 4:9*
begotten of His Father before all worlds, *John 1:18; 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:17; 1 Peter 1:20*
God of God, Light of Light, *John 1:4-9; 8:12; 12:46; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 21:23*
very God of very God, *Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:19; 2:9; 1 John 5:20*
begotten, not made, *John 1:2*
being of one substance with the Father, *John 10:30; 17:22*
by Whom all things were made; *John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2*
Who for us men and for our salvation *John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:4*
came down from heaven *John 3:13; 6:41; Luke 15:20; Ephesians 4:10*
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary *Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34-35*
and was made man; *John 1:14; Galatians 4:4*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:25; Luke 23:33; John 19:18*
He suffered and was buried. *Acts 1:13; 3:18; Matthew 14:12; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:53; John 19:42*
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures *Luke 24:46; Acts 10:40; 1 Corinthians 15:4*
and ascended into heaven *Luke 24:51; John 20:17; Acts 1:2, 9, 11, 22; Ephesians 4:8*
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1*
And He will come again with glory *Matthew 26:64; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7*
to judge both the living and the dead, *Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5; Revelation 20:12*
Whose kingdom will have no end. *Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 11:15*

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, *John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:4*
the Lord and giver of life, *Genesis 1:2; John 3:5-6; 15:26-27; Romans 8:2*
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, *John 14:26; 16:7; Acts 1:8; 2:33; Romans 5:5*
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, *Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14*
Who spoke by the prophets. *Luke 1:67; Acts 28:25; Ephesians 3:5; 2 Peter 1:21*
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, *Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 21:14*
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, *Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5*
and I look for the resurrection of the dead *John 5:29; 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-22*
and the life ✝ of the world to come. *Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:30; John 5:24; 6:33; Galatians 6:8; 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 John 5:11*
Amen. *Psalms 106:48; 2 Corinthians 1:20*

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

The Fifth Commandment

- P** What is the Fifth Commandment?
C You shall not murder.

- P** What does this mean?
- C** We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 541

“Away from Us! the Demon Cried”



1 “A - way from us!” the de - mon cried
 2 But Je - sus spoke with God’s own pow’r;
 3 O ris - en Christ, God’s liv - ing Word,
 4 Drive out the doubt that crip - ples faith;
 5 Then help us, Lord, to greet each day



When Christ, the Lord, drew near. “Our dark, dis - or - dered
 “Come forth!” was His com - mand; For e - vil can - not
 To us, we pray, draw near. Come, speak the truth that
 Ex - pel our pride and greed That we, from pow’rs that
 With hearts and wills made new And, when You call us



world is lost When You, the Light, ap - pear!”
 bear the Light Nor sin, the Truth with - stand.
 cleans - es sin With love that con - quers fear.
 threat - en us, May, by Your grace, be freed.
 forth to serve, To rise and fol - low You.

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SERMON

RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your heart, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 10:32-33 NKJV alt.

- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism.

R Yes, I do.

- P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

R *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Standing

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing this Your daughter Barbara to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling her both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit she may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The grace of our † Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C **Amen.**

We welcome Barbara Danner to the Ascension family.

Please remain standing.

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

OFFERING

Ascension Choir – We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died, LSB 429

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P Righteous and just Father, send Your Holy Spirit to abide in us, to enliven our faith, to cast out doubt and to soften our hearts to the Word of Your Son. Teach us repentance through the plagues and trials of this world, that at the Last Day we may be found in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of the Church, preserve and bless Your Church on earth, and do not let us fall into the sin of pride and self-confidence. Grant boldness to Your ministers as they preach Your Word to all, especially to those in need of repentance. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Lord God, You call us to live in purity and holiness. Protect and guide Christian families to love and seek chastity and decency, learning to grow in virtue and all godly living. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** King of kings and Judge of the earth, establish our nation's leaders and grant them wisdom for the good of those they govern, that Your Word and Church would not be persecuted in our land but protected and allowed to flourish by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, the strength of the weak, hear our prayers for all who are sick, anxious, lonely or oppressed in any way [especially _____]. Overcome the devil and his demons, that he would not lead any into despair, and grant Your healing and cleansing power to rest upon their bodies and minds. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Blessed Lord, You join Your Word to the bread and wine and so invite us to eat and drink. Grant that we may hear and keep Your Word in faith, that we may worthily receive the true body and blood of our Savior and so be given Your eternal blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You seek not the death but the life of all. Hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You or who have wandered from Your truth. Free them from all error and, for the glory of Your name, mercifully bring them into the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take up our flesh, that He might overcome the devil and defend us poor sinners against the adversary. We thank You for Your merciful aid and implore You to attend us with Your grace in every temptation. Preserve us from carnal security and, by Your Spirit, keep us in Your Word and fear, that we may be delivered from the enemy and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



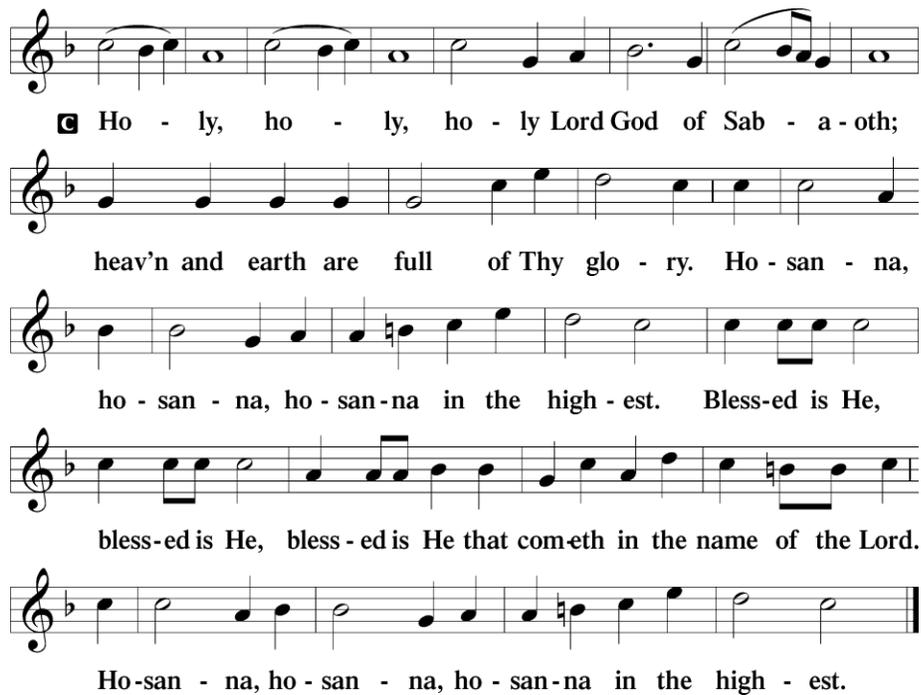
C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Kneeling or sitting forward.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
C **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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] bod - y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
C A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sitting

About participation in Holy Communion:

All guests and visitors are asked to please speak to Pastor Miller before receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

Those who are not receiving the Sacrament but still request a pastoral blessing are invited to approach the altar with arms crossed in an "X" over their chests to indicate this desire.

We are grateful for your cooperation in honoring our practice. For further explanation, please see below:

Drawn from God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions are a true and binding exposition of Holy Scripture and serve as authoritative texts for all pastors, congregations and other rostered church workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. That being the case, we are bound to follow its prescribed practice of Closed Communion:

"The custom has been retained among us of not administering the sacrament to those who have not previously been examined and absolved [1 Corinthians 11:27-28]" (Augsburg Confession XXV:1).

Closed Communion was always the common practice among Christians from the first century and remains the practice of Confessional Lutherans. It originates from the clear biblical teaching that the Sacrament of the Altar "is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink" (Small Catechism VI:1). The "words [according to our Lord's institution], "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words" (SC VI:3).

Because "whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord," it is important that each person "examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). To ensure worthy reception, pastors are required to be faithful in their stewardship of the sacraments (1 Cor 4:1-2). This assumes pastoral care between Pastor Miller and those intending to receive Holy Communion.

Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 620

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: “Come and taste the bless - ed feast.”
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

**5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

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1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,

seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!

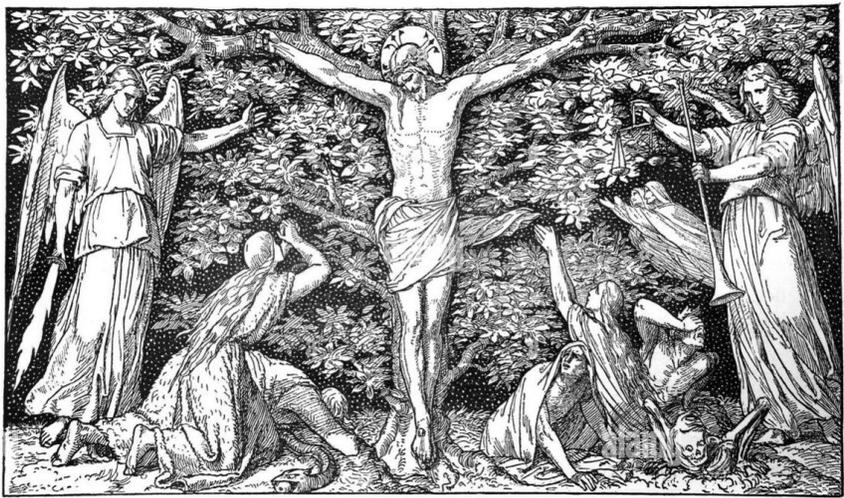
And though your cour - age some - times faints, His seem - ing
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y

tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer After Receiving Holy Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

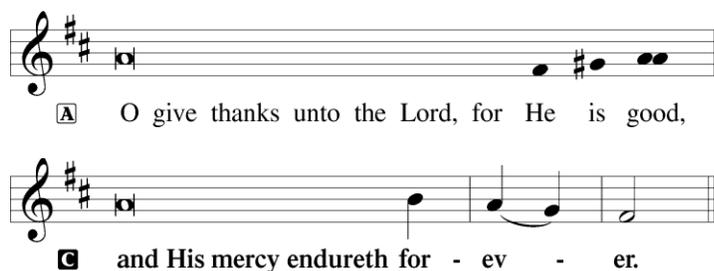
Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.



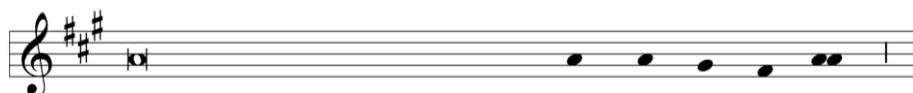
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 533

“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”



1 Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal,
2 Je - sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun - der!
3 Je - sus has come as the might - y Re - deem - er.
4 Je - sus has come as the King of all glo - ry!



Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;
Fet - ters of death now dis - solve, dis - ap - pear.
See now the threat - en - ing strong one dis - armed!
Heav - en and earth, O de - clare His great pow'r,



God - head, hu - man - i - ty, u - nion su - per - nal,
See Him burst through with a voice as of thun - der!
Je - sus breaks down all the walls of death's for - tress,
Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry;



O great Re - deem - er, You come as our friend!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Brings forth the pris - 'ners tri - um - phant, un - harmed.
Wel - come Him now in this fast - fleet - ing hour!



Heav - en and earth, now pro - claim this great won - der:
Lifts us from shame to the place of His hon - or.
Sa - tan, you wick - ed one, own now your mas - ter!
Pon - der His love! Take the crown He has for you!



Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal!
Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!
Je - sus has come! He, the might - y Re - deem - er!
Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

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POSTLUDE

Jesus Ist Kommen, Grund Ewiger Freude (Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal, LSB 533)

Setting by Kenneth Koesche



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (OCULI)

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Jason Schoellen, *Elder*

Katie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet

Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Ascension Choir

Abby Warnke, soprano

Patty Harmon, alto

Clara Smith, alto

Brian Beckman, baritone

The Rev. Steve Harmon, baritone

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje

Usher(s)

Grayson Beckman/The Rev. Steve Harmon

(Trevor Dunkel)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Gollin family

SERVING NEXT WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (LAETARE)

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Jason Schoellen, *Elder*

Katie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet

Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild

Whitney Worthington/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Grayson Beckman/The Rev. Steve Harmon

(Trevor Dunkel)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Durden family

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OVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT
COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF.”

- MATTHEW 22:37-39

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 3/8	Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi) Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>"Follow Me:" Discipleship in Matthew</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 9:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass
Monday 3/9	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 3/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 3/11	Wednesday of the Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi) Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel Midweek Prayer Lenten Midweek Mass III: <i>The Third Day of Creation</i>	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM 12:15 PM 7:00 PM
Thursday 3/12	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 3/13	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 3/14	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 3/15	Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare) Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>"Follow Me:" Discipleship in Matthew</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Church Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 9:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Fellowship

LOVING THE LORD

✝ **Adult Bible Study: “Follow Me”: Discipleship in Matthew**

Sundays at 9:00 A.M. during the season of Lent.

Church fellowship hall

The phrase "follower of Jesus" like the term "Christian" has become so generic that it means nearly anything and sometimes almost nothing. In “Follow Me,” we will dig deeply into the Holy Scriptures to show what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This seven-session Bible study couldn't be more appropriate for Lent as we heed our Lord's command to “take up your cross and follow Me.” All are welcome—whether you are new to Bible study or have been reading Scripture for many years. Come deepen your faith, engage in thoughtful discussion, and enjoy fellowship with others.

✝ **Midweek Prayer**

Wednesdays at 12:15 P.M.

Church sanctuary

Whether on your lunchbreak or just need a break in your day, we invite you to join us for prayer and meditation on God's Holy Word. Every Wednesday at noon, parents and teachers of Open Arms, as well as anyone from the congregation, are encouraged to come into God's presence. We will hear Him speak through His Word, and we will pray for the world, our nation, and the deeper needs of the church and school communities. This service is simple and brief. But it will allow you to walk away refreshed and ready to finish out the week strong!

✝ **Lenten Midweek Mass: *The Seven Days of New Creation***

Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25 at 7:00 P.M.

Church sanctuary

Throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to join us for Midweek Masses over five weeks, offering a sacred rhythm of worship, reflection, and renewal as we journey toward Easter. Lenten midweek services provide an important opportunity to slow down, repent, and refocus our hearts on Christ's saving work. Gathered around Word and Sacrament, we are strengthened in faith and drawn more deeply into the meaning of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. These services help prepare us spiritually to receive the joy of Easter by walking intentionally through the season of repentance and hope.

Continued next page . . .

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This year's sermon series will explore how Christ fulfills the seven days of creation through His ministry—and especially through the events of Holy Week—working faithfully to inaugurate God's new creation. As the first creation was formed through God's purposeful work, so Christ labors in obedience, suffering, and love to bring about restoration, redemption, and new life for all creation. All are encouraged to attend these midweek Masses and enter more fully into the Lenten journey as we prepare our hearts for the victory of Easter.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✦ **Ascension Family Game Day**

Saturday, TBD from 3:00 – 6:00 P.M.
Church fellowship hall

Everyone is invited—families with children, teens, and adults of all ages—to join us for a fun-filled afternoon of games and fellowship! We'll have a wide variety of games available, with options suited for young children, youth, and adults alike, so everyone can jump in and enjoy time together. Whether you love board games, group games, or just good conversation and laughter, there will be something for you. Our time together will conclude with a fellowship dinner of pizza and salad, giving us the chance to relax, share a meal, and continue building friendships across generations. We hope you'll come and be part of this joyful time together!

✦ **Men's Group: Fellowship at the Biergarten!**

Saturday, May 9 at noon
Gasthaus Tirol
310 Atlanta Road
Cumming, GA 30040

Men of the congregation are warmly invited to join us for a special afternoon of fellowship and good cheer at our upcoming Men's Gathering at a local German restaurant! We'll meet in the biergarten to enjoy hearty German fare, refreshing beverages, and great conversation in a relaxed outdoor setting. This will be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen friendships, welcome new faces, and encourage one another in faith while savoring classic German food and drink. Come hungry, bring a friend, and plan to spend a memorable afternoon together—we look forward to seeing you there!

✝ **Book Club: *The Deerslayer* by James Fenimore Cooper**

Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 P.M.

Pastor Miller's home

Everyone is invited to join our Book Club for fellowship and discussion! We'll gather to talk about our new book, share insights, and encourage one another. No need to be an expert—just come ready to listen and participate. All are welcome!

From the inside dust jacket flap:

The deadly crack of a long rifle and the piercing cries of Indians on the warpath shatter the serenity of beautiful Lake Glimmerglass. Danger has invaded the vast forests of upper New York State as Deerslayer and his loyal Mohican friend Chingachgook attempt the daring rescue of an Indian maiden imprisoned in a Huron camp. Soon they are caught in the cross fire between a cunning enemy and two white bounty hunters who mercilessly kill for profit.

*The last of the Leatherstocking Tales to be written, though first in the chronology of the hero's life, *The Deerslayer* is James Fenimore Cooper's masterpiece. A fine combination of romance, adventure, and morality, this classic novel of the frontier is an eloquent beginning for Cooper's great wilderness saga—and an unforgettable introduction to the famous character who has been said to embody the conscience of America: the noble woodsman Deerslayer.*

✝ **Lunch and Learn Group: Tour of Historic Silverlake Park in Brookhaven**

TBD

Silverlake Park

4062 Peachtree Road

Suite #A259

Brookhaven, GA 30319

All are welcome to lunch and learn with the new Ascension weekday group. Please watch the church announcements for all upcoming planned events. The first is an easy walking tour of historic Silverlake Park in Brookhaven, with lunch to follow at Hobnob. For more details, contact Eileen Buehl (contact information in church directory).

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- + Barbara Danner, 3/8
- + Judy Russell, 3/14

Wedding Anniversaries:

- + None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- + Rev. Dr. James Clark (friend of the congregation)
- + Doug Hawkins (friend of Lauren Morr)
- + Jeremiah Hollins (son of Shannon, a former Open Arms teacher)
- + Bob Husby (father of Whitney Worthington)
- + John Lamb (father of Pastor Miller's friend)
- + Joshua Schoellen (brother of Jason Schoellen)
- + Mike Warnke (father of Abby Warnke)

Other Recent Requests

- + Thanksgiving for Barbara Danner, the newest member of the Ascension family.
- + Family and friends of Scott Hendrix (friend of Adrian Popescu), for comfort in the Gospel.
- + Family and friends of Jane Troy (friend of Barbara Danner), for comfort in the Gospel.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- + David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- + Ruth Henry
- + James Houchin (friend of Jordan Tomesch)
- + John Kateen
- + Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- + Betty Licht
- + Jean Meyers (former member of Ascension)
- + Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- + Rev. Aaron Sterling (Senior Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- + Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board
- + English District Bishop Jeffrey G. Miskus & all district officials
- + LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- + Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- + Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- + President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials

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HE GOD OF PEACE WILL SOON CRUSH SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET. THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU.

– ROMANS 16:20



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

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