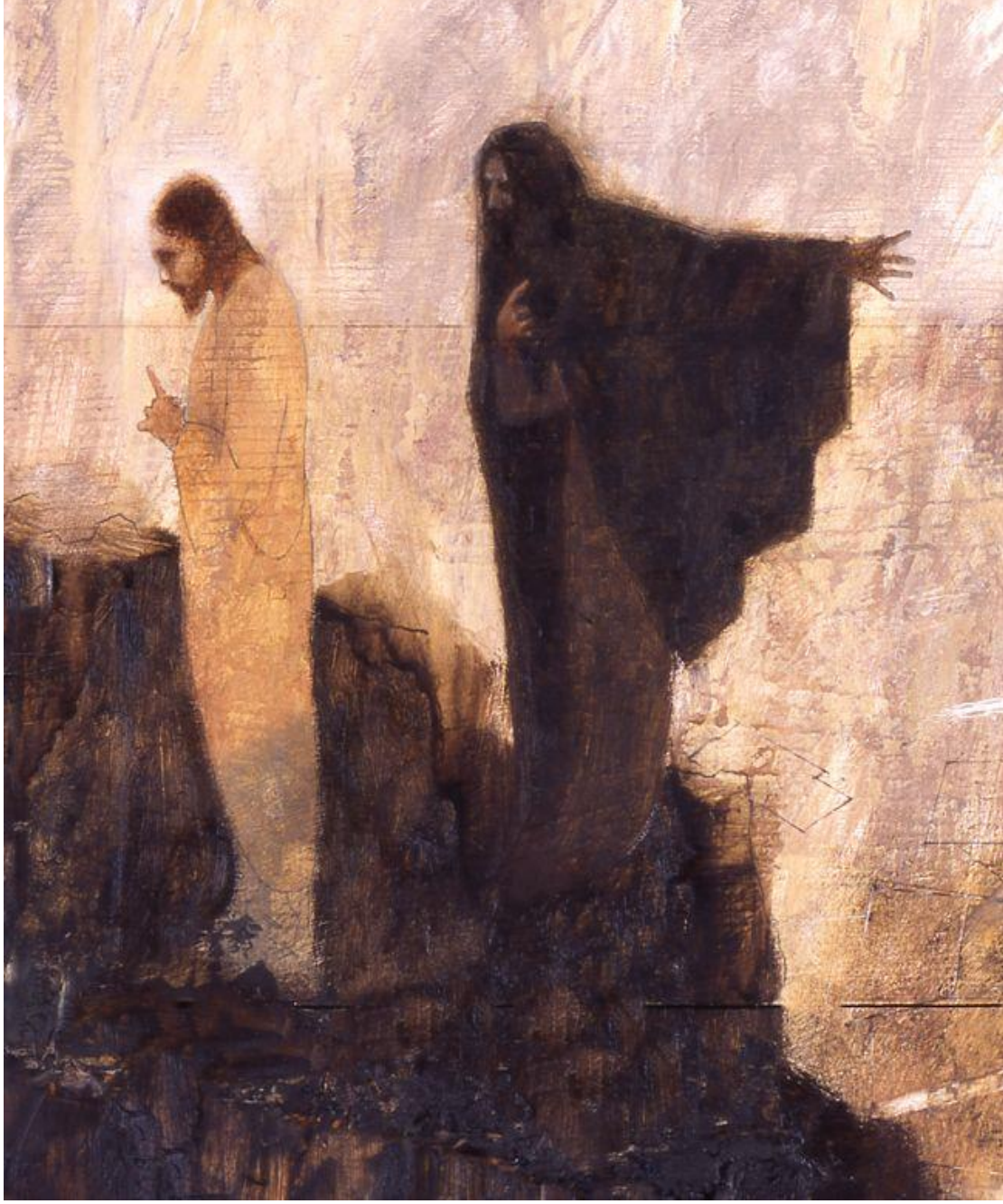


Lententide

MARCH 9, 2025 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

INVOCABIT ~ FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



WE ARE REGENERATED AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE VERY REASON THAT THE NEW LIFE MAY PRODUCE NEW WORKS, NEW DISPOSITIONS, THE FEAR AND LOVE OF GOD, HATRED OF LUSTFUL DESIRES (CONCUPISCENCE), AND SO ON. THE FAITH ARISES IN REPENTANCE AND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND GROW AMID GOOD WORKS, TEMPTATIONS, AND DANGERS. THIS IS SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUALLY BE MORE FIRMLY PERSUADED THAT GOD CARES FOR US, FORGIVES US, AND HEARS US FOR CHRIST'S SAKE. THIS IS NOT LEARNED WITHOUT MANY AND GREAT STRUGGLES.

-APOLOGY. ARTICLE V (III). LOVE AND FULFILLING THE LAW. 228-29.

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

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Isaac Watts

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 521 (stanzas 1, 3, 4)

“Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken”



1 Christ, the Lord of hosts, un - shak - en By the dev - il's
3 Long on earth the bat - tle ra - ges, Since the ser - pent's
4 Je - sus came, this word ful - fill - ing, Tram - pled Sa - tan,



seeth - ing rage, Thwarts the plan of Sa - tan's min - ions;
first de - ceit; Twist - ed God's com - mand to Ad - am,
death de - fied; Bore the brunt of our temp - ta - tion,



Wins the strife from age to age; Con - quers sin and
Made for - bid - den fruit look sweet. Then the curse of
On the wretch - ed tree He died. Yet to life was



death for - ev - er; Slams them in their steel - y cage.
God was spo - ken: “You'll lie crushed be - neath His feet!”
raised vic - to - rious; By His life our life sup - plied.

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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 Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Third Commandment:

- *Do I despise the Word by neglect or by paying little or no attention when it is read or preached?*
- *Am I faithful in the Divine Service, or do I attend sporadically, preferring to be elsewhere when the Church is at worship?*
- *Do I pray for my pastor and support his efforts to guard Christ's flock from error?*

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.

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-10, 13; antiphon: Psalm 91:15a, c, 16



- L** When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.
- L** He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
- C** I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust.”
- L** Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—
- C** no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.
- L** You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

- L** When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

C 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 Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 First Sunday In Lent is from Genesis, chapter three.

A In those days: The serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not

eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



- L** He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
- C** On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 6:1–10

- A** The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter six.
- A** Brethren: We plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

TRACT

Psalm 91:1, 4a, 15a, 16



- L** He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
- C** He will cover you with his | pinions,*
and under his wings you will find | refuge.
- L** When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*
I will be with him in | trouble.
- C** With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1–11

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

- P** At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In

their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

APOSTLES' CREED

[Matthew 10:32]

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION **First and Second Parts of the Sacrament of the Altar**

P What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

P Where is this written?

C The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 656

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



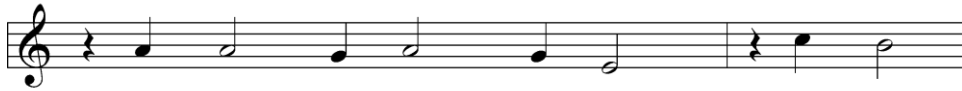
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main eth.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

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

O God, Forsake Me Not

Saloma Franck

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 Almighty God, You stand ever ready to receive the prayers of Your children. Since we have so great a mediator in Christ, make our hearts eager to cry out, knowing we will find grace to help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P O God, our shield and our weapon against the evil one, grant us safe haven within the walls of Your Church, and embolden our witness in the world as we receive Your Holy Word and proclaim it with our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, our first parents fell into sin, rebelled against You and despised one another. Inspire the families of Your Church to live in sacrificial love toward one another and in faith toward You, that they may receive Your temporal and eternal benediction. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, since we sojourn in the wilderness of this earth, look upon our desire for peace, and by Your mighty power defend us and our nation against all our enemies. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God of Sabaoth, send Your holy angels to protect and keep us in Your ways, that no evil may befall us. Graciously behold the needy, the sick and the troubled [*especially* _____]. Satisfy us with long life, and show us Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, You covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of Your Son's blood by which we are cleansed and clothed. Give us the garments of repentance and faith, that we may receive Your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of hosts, Your servant David opposed Goliath with faith in Your deliverance. Christ, the Son of David, overcame the devil for our sake. Instill in us a spirit of prayer and holy discipline daily to trample the tempter underfoot. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, see how the adversary continually afflicts us and walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We implore You for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and strengthen our hearts by Your Word, that our enemy would not prevail over us, but instead that we may abide evermore in Your grace and be preserved to life everlasting; 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

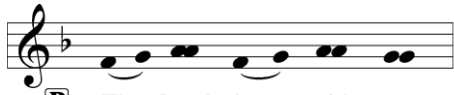
Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

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.



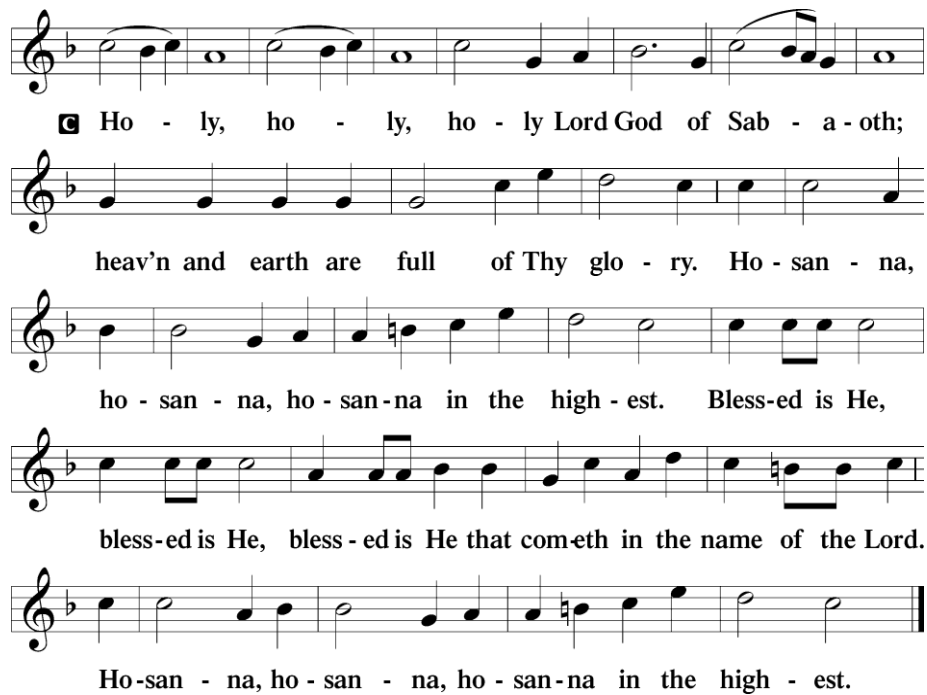
C It is meet and right so to do.

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 the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 572

"In the Shattered Bliss of Eden"



1 In the shat - tered bliss of E - den Dawned the
 2 Days and months and years un - fold - ing Clear - ly
 3 What these sac - ri - fic - es prom - ised From a
 4 Lamb of God, once slain for sin - ners, Host, who



day of sac - ri - fice, As our pri - mal par - ents
 showed what sin had wrought: Fall - en Ad - am's chil - dren
 God who sought to bless, Came at last— a sec - ond
 spreads this meal di - vine, Here You pledge our sins are



shud - dered— Sin had caused this dread - ful price!
 learn - ing Les - sons fall - en par - ents taught.
 Ad - am— Priest and King of Righ - teous - ness:
 cov - ered, Pledge re - ceived in bread and wine:



Faith em - barked with this dis - cern - ment: On - ly
 All these sac - ri - fi - cial of - f'ings Crest - ed
 Son of God, in - car - nate Sav - ior, Son of
 "Take and eat; this is My bod - y, Giv - en



God can cov - er sin, As He took their leaf - y
 as a crim - son flood: Pa - tri - archs and priests a -
 Man, both Christ and Lord, Who in na - ked shame would
 on the cross for you. Take and drink; this cup of



gar - ments And He clothed their shame with skin.
 ton - ing For their sins with cleans - ing blood.
 of - fer On the cross His blood out - poured.
 bless - ing Is My blood poured out for you."

5 Taste and see the bliss of heaven
 Known by saints around the throne,
 Where the Lamb, in closest union,
 Lives to love and feed His own.
 From His riven side forever
 Flows the purest stream of love,
 Love that robes us with the raiment
 Worn by all who feast above.

6 Gone the bliss of Eden's garden,
 Gone the age of sacrifice;
 Ours the time of grace and favor,
 Ours the call to paradise!
 Ever, Lord, impress upon us:
 Only You can cover sin—
 Take our worthless, self-made garments;
 Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

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 Tune: Public domain



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly
 3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it
 4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
 gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all
 da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
 moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
 good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
 life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.
 did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

5 God said to His beloved Son:

“It's time to have compassion.

Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
 And bring to all salvation.

From sin and sorrow set them free;
 Slay bitter death for them that they
 May live with You forever.”

6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,
 Was born of virgin mother;
 And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
 He came to be my brother.
 His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
 A servant's form, like mine, He wore
 To lead the devil captive.

7 To me He said: “Stay close to Me,
 I am your rock and castle.
 Your ransom I Myself will be;
 For you I strive and wrestle.
 For I am yours, and you are Mine,
 And where I am you may remain;
 The foe shall not divide us.

8 “Though he will shed My precious
 blood,

Me of My life bereaving,
 All this I suffer for your good;
 Be steadfast and believing.
 Life will from death the vict'ry win;
 My innocence shall bear your sin,
 And you are blest forever.

9 “Now to My Father I depart,
 From earth to heav'n ascending,
 And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
 The Holy Spirit sending;
 In trouble He will comfort you
 And teach you always to be true
 And into truth shall guide you.

10 “What I on earth have done and taught
 Guide all your life and teaching;
 So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
 And honored in your preaching.
 But watch lest foes with base alloy
 The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
 This final word I leave you.”

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

C 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

Psalm 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.



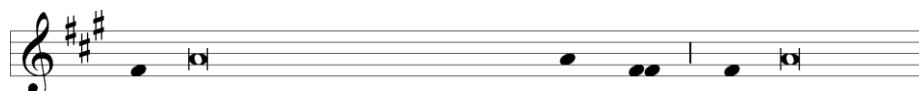
A Bless we the Lord.



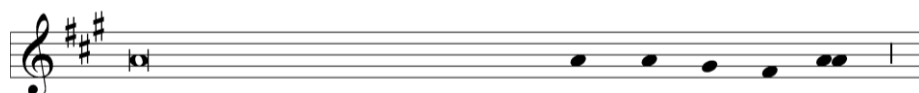
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

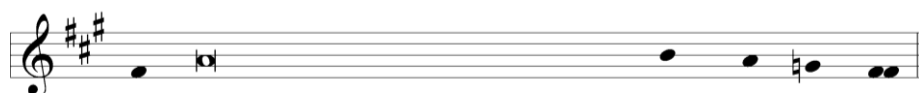
Numbers 6:24-26



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.

Continued next page . . .

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 655

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Edward J. Hopkins



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Jason Schoellen, *Elder*

Maddie Abi, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Briana Darden

Altar Guild

Lucie Woolery/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Tom Lawton/Tracy Woolery
(David Darden)

Fellowship Host(s)

Darlene Beckman

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Jason Schoellen, *Elder*

Maddie Abi, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Briana Darden

Altar Guild

Jeni Miller

Usher(s)

Tom Lawton/Tracy Woolery
(David Darden)

Fellowship Host(s)

Christina Schoellen

L

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.”

-JESUS CHRIST (MT. 22:37-39)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 3/9	First Sunday in Lent (Invocabit) Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>What Is the Meaning of This!</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour/Beckman Diaper Shower Open Arms Board Meeting Book Club: <i>Travels with Charley</i>	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Fellowship Hour 3:30 PM
Monday 3/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 3/11	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 3/12	Wednesday of Invocabit Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel Holy Mass The Second Word from the Cross: <i>"Today, You Will Be with Me in Paradise."</i>	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM 7:00 PM
Thursday 3/13	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 3/14	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 3/15	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 3/16	Second Sunday in Lent (Reminiscere) Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour/Laura Darden Appreciation	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass

LOVING THE LORD

✠ **Adult Bible Study: *The History of the Kingdom of Israel***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.
Church fellowship hall

A barren woman's miraculous pregnancy. God passed over for a human king. The wicked sons of a righteous prophet. A king's crimes of murder and adultery. A son's coup against his father's throne. A prophet's persecution. The Word of God lost and found again. These are just a handful of what you will encounter in this provocative Bible study covering the history of the kingdom of Israel. We began with 1 and 2 Samuel, now we will pick up with 1 Kings, as we continue the turbulent history of God's people and their Lord's unwavering faithfulness.

✠ **Special One-Time Adult Bible Study: *What's the Meaning of This!***

Sunday, March 9 at 9:00 A.M.
Church sanctuary

Crucifixes? Tabernacles? Chancel bells? Incense? Chasubles? What's the meaning of this! Join Pastor Miller in the sanctuary for a guided tour as he explains the biblical precedents, historical developments, and Christological emphases behind what happens every Sunday in church.

✠ **Lententide/Easter Mass Schedule**

Lenten Midweek Mass March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9 at 7:00 P.M.
Maundy Thursday Mass with Corporate Confession April 17 at 7:00 P.M.
Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers April 18 at Noon and 7:00 P.M.
Easter Vigil Mass April 19 at 7:00 P.M.
Easter Sunday Mass . . . April 20 at 10:00 A.M. (breakfast at 8:30 A.M.; egg hunt at 11:30 A.M.)

✠ **Sermons on YouTube**

Missed a sermon? Had to walk out halfway through? Want to hear it again? No problem! Most sermons are now being recorded and posted to an official YouTube channel for you to watch at your leisure. Simply type in <https://www.youtube.com/@lcaatlanta> and you will be directed to the YouTube page where you have access to Pastor Miller's sermons online. Sermons are posted in the order of the date they were preached.

✠ **Small Group Bible Study: *The Books of the Church***

Sunday March 23 at 3:30 P.M.: Judith; Wisdom of Solomon; Tobit

Sunday April 27 at 3:30 P.M.: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach); Baruch; The Letter of Jeremiah

Sunday May 25 at 3:30 P.M.: 1 & 2 Maccabees

Pastor Miller's home (see church directory for address)

God has blessed us with His inspired Word in the canon of Holy Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God has given us everything we need to establish the doctrine of His Church. Nevertheless, there are ecclesiastical texts that, while not inspired by the Holy Spirit, are still helpful in recording the history of God's people and clarifying biblical contexts. Even Martin Luther retained many of these texts in his German translation of the Bible. Lutherans since have also included them in their daily lectionary. And the Jews in Jesus' day made frequent use of them in their Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament).

This might explain why the Bible itself makes references to them. For example, when Jesus calls Himself "the Light of the world" (John 8:12), it's in the context of Hanukkah which originated in 1 Maccabees. And the author of Hebrews refers to Tobit when he says, "some have entertained angels unawares" (13:2), and 2 Maccabees when Hebrews says, "women received back their dead, raised to life again" (11:35). Because these texts have been judged as worthwhile reading in the Church, yet not to detract from God's inspired Word in Sunday Adult Bible Class, we would like to begin a supplemental Small Group Bible Study.

Concordia Publishing House (LCMS) has compiled *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes*. It is available for purchase at \$44.99 through its website (cph.org). This is a nice companion volume to your *Lutheran Study Bible*. However, a bare bones version of the texts is also available at no cost online via apocrypha.org.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✠ **Diaper Shower for Baby Boy Beckman**

Sunday March 9 during Fellowship Hour

Church narthex

Isaac, Bekah, Luka, and Skyler Beckman are excited to welcome sweet baby Cato to their family! Members and friends of Ascension are invited to celebrate with them on Sunday, March 9 during the fellowship hour. Diapers of any size and wipes are especially needed and welcome, and the Beckmans appreciate and prefer the Honest Company brand diapers. No need to RSVP, but if you have any questions please reach out to Jeni Miller (contact information available in church directory).

✝ **Book Club: *Travels with Charley***

Sunday March 9 at 3:30 P.M.

Tom & Linda's Home (see church directory for address)

Read *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck (author of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*) to discuss with the Book Club. New attendees are always welcome!

Here's what some people are saying about *Travels with Charley*:

An intimate journey across America, as told by one of its most beloved writers

To hear the speech of the real America, to smell the grass and the trees, to see the colors and the light—these were John Steinbeck's goals as he set out, at the age of fifty-eight, to rediscover the country he had been writing about for so many years.

With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. Along the way he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, the particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and the unexpected kindness of strangers.

✝ **Staff Appreciation: Thank You to Laura Darden**

Sunday March 16 during Fellowship Hour

Church narthex

We are grateful for Laura Darden's service to us as Director of Music. She has blessed our music program and everyone who has worked with her. Sadly, Wednesday March 19 will be the last official service she plays for us. In the meantime, we will have an interim director. Though we don't want to see Laura go, we do want to celebrate what the Lord has accomplished through his servant Laura. Please join us for cake and a time to express our appreciation to her after church. Thank you, Laura, and God bless you!

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- + Laura Darden, 3/11
- + Judy Russell, 3/19

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- + None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- + None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- + None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- + Mary Abee (Nancy Grossberg's sister-in-law)
- + David Beckman (father of Brian Beckman)
- + Bill Bigelow (brother of Anne Bigelow)
- + Ruth Henry
- + Hellen Kalugendo
- + Donald Licht
- + Gary Miller (father of Pastor Miller)
- + Michelle Noel
- + Rachel Preus (friend of Jeni Miller)
- + Pam Vines (mother of Darlene Beckman's friend)

For those requesting special prayers:

- + Thanksgiving for the safe delivery of the son of Isaac and Bekah Beckman, born Monday February 24.
- + Faith Lutheran Church and School in Marietta, that God would provide them with a faithful pastor and principal.
- + Family and friends of Jerry Davis (uncle of Whitney Worthington), for peace and comfort through Christ.

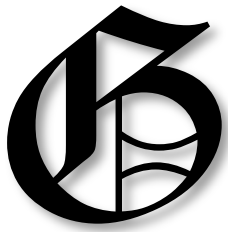
Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- + David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- + Will Edinger (friend of the Beckmans)
- + Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- + Betty Licht
- + Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- + Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- + Ed & Jackie Sherwood (grandfather and grandmother of Bekah Beckman)

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



REAT AND GRIEVOUS, INDEED, ARE THESE DANGERS AND TEMPTATIONS, WHICH EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST BEAR. WE BEAR THEM EVEN THOUGH EACH ONE WERE ALONE BY HIMSELF. SO EVERY HOUR THAT WE ARE IN THIS VILE LIFE, WE ARE ATTACKED ON ALL SIDES [2 CORINTHIANS 4:8], CHASED AND HUNTED DOWN. WE ARE MOVED TO CRY OUT AND TO PRAY THAT GOD WOULD NOT ALLOW US TO BECOME WEARY AND FAINT [ISAIAH 40:31; HEBREWS 12:3] AND TO FALL AGAIN INTO SIN, SHAME, AND UNBELIEF. FOR OTHERWISE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERCOME EVEN THE LEAST TEMPTATION. . . .

SO THERE IS NO HELP OR COMFORT EXCEPT TO RUN HERE, TAKE HOLD OF THE LORD'S PRAYER, AND SPEAK TO GOD FROM THE HEART LIKE THIS: "DEAR FATHER, YOU HAVE ASKED ME TO PRAY. DON'T LET ME FALL BECAUSE OF TEMPTATIONS." THEN YOU WILL SEE THAT THE TEMPTATIONS MUST STOP AND FINALLY CONFESS THEMSELVES CONQUERED. IF YOU TRY TO HELP YOURSELF BY YOUR OWN THOUGHTS AND COUNSEL, YOU WILL ONLY MAKE THE MATTER WORSE AND GIVE THE DEVIL MORE SPACE. FOR HE HAS A SERPENT'S HEAD [REVELATION 12:9]. IF IT FINDS AN OPENING INTO WHICH IT CAN SLIP, THE WHOLE BODY WILL FOLLOW WITHOUT STOPPING. BUT PRAYER CAN PREVENT HIM AND DRIVE HIM BACK.

-LARGE CATECHISM. PART III. THE LORD'S PRAYER. 105, 110-11.



THE LUTHERAN
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ASCENSION

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