

Sexagesima

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

SEXAGESIMA



JOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE, SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, PIERCING TO THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND OF SPIRIT, OF JOINTS AND OF MARROW, AND DISCERNING THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART. - HEBREWS 4:12

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

Munich ("Preserve Your Word, O Savior," LSB 658)

Setting by Kenneth T. Kosche

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 584

"Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"

1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

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

P In the name of the Father and of the \dagger 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 Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Sixth Commandment:

- *Have I held in highest regard God's gift of sexuality or have I debased it in any way by my thoughts, words, or conduct?*
- *Am I guilty of lust, indecency, or the use of pornography?*
- *Have I reserved my sexual activity for the pleasure and consolation of my spouse, and when God wills, the procreation of children?*

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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 44:1-2, 7-8; antiphon: Psalm 44:23, 25a, 26a



L Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?*
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever.
For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*
Rise up; come | to our help!

L O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have | told us,*
what deeds you performed in their days, in the | days of old:

C **you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you | planted;***
you afflicted the peoples, but them you | set free.

L But you have saved us | from our foes*
and have put to shame those who | hate us.

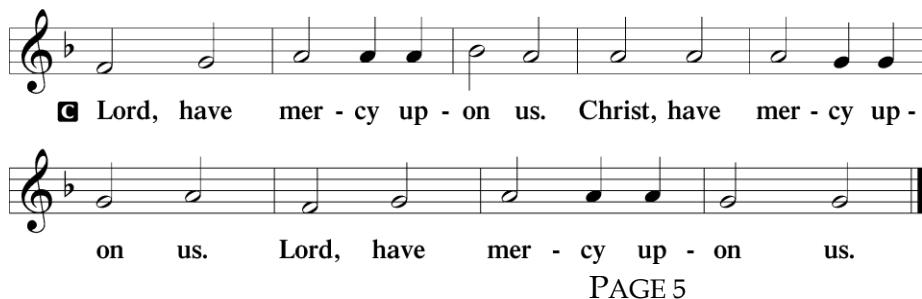
C **In God we have boasted con- | tinually,***
and we will give thanks to your name for- | ever.



L Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?*
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever.
For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*
Rise up; come | to our help!

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



During *Gesimati*de, the *GLORIA IN EXCELSIS* is omitted in preparation for Lent.

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 God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

PROPHECY

Isaiah 55:10-13

A The Old Testament Reading for Sexagesima is from Isaiah, chapter 55.
A Thus says the LORD God: "As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off," says the LORD Almighty.
A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 83:18, 13



L [Let your enemies] know that you alone, whose name | is the LORD,*
are the Most High over | all the earth.
C O my God, make them like | whirling dust,*
like chaff be- | fore the wind.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 11:19 – 12:9

A The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapters eleven and twelve.

A Brethren: You put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise! For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face. To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the

governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast.

I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Standing

From Sepetuagesima to Holy Saturday, the Tract replaces the Alleluia and Verse.

TRACT

Psalm 60:1-2, 5



L O God, you have rejected us, broken our de- | fenses;*
you have been angry; oh, re- | store us.

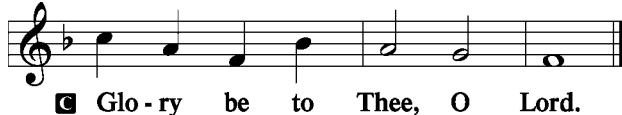
C **You have made the land to quake; you have torn it | open;***
repair its breaches, for it | totters.

L That your beloved ones may be de- | livered,*
give salvation by your right hand and | answer us!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 8:4-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P At that time: When a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, Jesus spoke by a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables,

that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

The First Commandment

P What is the First Commandment?

C You shall have no other gods.

P What does this mean?

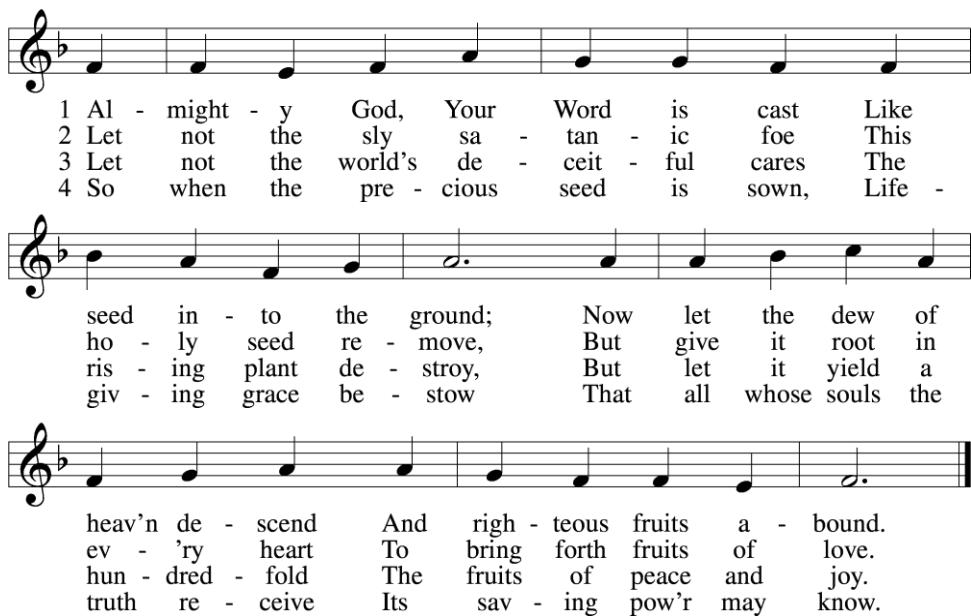
C We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 577

"Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -

seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the

heav'n de - scand And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sitting

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

Ach Bleib Bei Uns ("Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide," LSB 685)

Setting by Philip Gehring

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, Your Word accomplishes Your purpose in this world according to Your holy will. Make us to hear it gladly, that springing forth in faith, hope and love, we renew Your fallen creation in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, in Christ You have established Your Church to be a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. We give You thanks for providing shepherds to serve Your flock. Bless their ministry of Word and Sacrament, that Your people would grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless our Synod, her congregations and schools, her pastors, teachers, deaconesses, musicians and all her faithful servants. Bless all preparations for the coming convention this summer, especially those gathering nominations for elected office. Send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom you have sent, that they may be faithful and steadfast in their work. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the harvest, grant health and prosperity to all who are in authority, especially Donald, our president; Brian, our governor; and all those who serve in our armed forces. Endue them with wisdom so that they may serve to the maintenance of righteousness and the hindrance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all comfort, remember those who mourn and those in need of Your healing, *[especially _____]* that Christ would be their joy in sorrow, their health in sickness, their peace in turmoil and their life in death. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the harvest, grant that in true faith we may worthily go to Your altar to receive the very body and the true blood that Your Son has given for our redemption. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You have planted Your Word in the hearts of Your children. Grant that we would rejoice to receive this gift and use it to bear abundant fruit in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P These things and whatever else You know that we need, kind Father, grant us for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

Please remain standing.

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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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

C 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



¶ Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



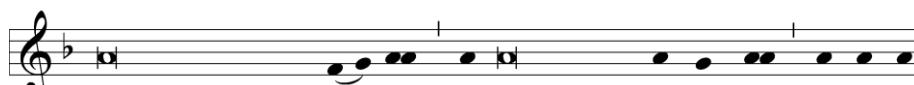
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \ddagger bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



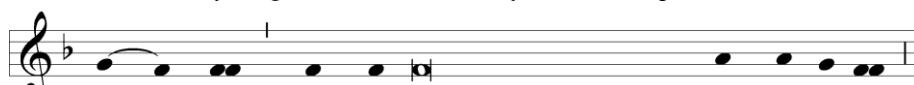
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



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 \ddagger 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



¶ The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



¶ A

men.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29



C 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 or an elder of the congregation before receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Thank you for honoring our practice. For further explanation, see below:

*St. Ignatius of Antioch called Holy Communion "the medicine of immortality." St. Augustine called the Church a "hospital for sinners." And Lutherans in Germany called their clergy *seelsorger*, which means "physician of souls." This means the distribution of Christ's holy body and blood is pastoral care. It can be likened to a doctor's consultation before writing a prescription.*

Because not all medicine is for everyone every time, Pastor Miller asks that guests and visitors please "step into his office" before having their prescription filled. The desire is that all would receive Holy Communion unto salvation by repentance and faith (1 Cor. 11:28-29). But because everyone's spiritual wellbeing is a top priority, pastors are required to be faithful in their stewardship of the sacraments (1 Cor. 4:1-2).

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.

"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

Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called me to be a Christian and granted me the remission of sins. Make me ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins, and grant me a grateful heart that I may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 585

"Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, For round us
2 In these last days of great dis - tress Grant us, dear
3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of
4 May glo - rious truths that we have heard, The bright sword



falls the e - ven - tide. O let Your Word,
Lord, true stead - fast - ness That we keep pure
fire and make us bold To shine Your Word
of Your might - y Word, Spurn Sa - tan that



that sav - ing light, Shine forth un - dimmed in - to the night.
till life is spent Your ho - ly Word and Sac - ra - ment.
of sav - ing grace In - to each dark and love - less place.
Your Church be strong, Bold, u - ni - fied in act and song.

5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride

That seeks to thrust Your truth aside

Or with some man-made thoughts or things

Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;

Preserve our faith our whole life through —

Your Word alone our heart's defense,

The Church's glorious confidence.

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1 Pre - serve Your Word, O Sav - ior, To us this lat - ter day,
 2 Pre - serve, O Lord, Your hon - or, The bold blas - phem - er smite;
 3 Pre - serve, O Lord, Your Zi - on, Bought dear - ly with Your blood;
 4 Pre - serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,
 5 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest Your storm-tossed lit - tle flock;



And let Your king - dom flour - ish; En - large Your Church, we pray.
 Con - vine, con - vert, en - light - en The souls in er - ror's night.
 Pro - tect what You have cho - sen A - gainst the hell - ish flood.
 The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.
 As - sailed by wind and weath - er, May it en - dure each shock.



O keep our faith from fail - ing; Keep hope's bright star a - glow.
 Re - veal Your will, dear Sav - ior, To all who dwell be - low,
 Be al - ways our de - fend - er When dan - gers gath - er round;
 Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,
 Stand at the helm, our pi - lot, And set the course a - right;



Let noth - ing from truth turn us While liv - ing here be - low.
 Great light of all the liv - ing, That all Your name may know.
 When all the earth is crum - bling, Safe may Your Church be found.
 Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.
 Then we will reach the har - bor In Your e - ter - nal light.

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Prayer After Receiving Holy Communion

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament. Keep me in Your faith and favor that I may live in You even as You live in me. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear me for the sake of Your name. Amen.

Standing

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

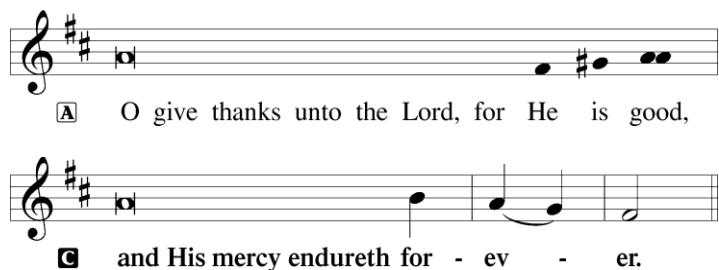
Luke 2:29-32



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.



RECESSATIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 921

"On What Has Now Been Sown"



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par-don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless-ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

Darwall's 148th ("On What Has Now Been Sown," LSB 921)

Setting by J. Wayne Kerr



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

SEXAGESIMA

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Elder*

Emilie 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

Chris Levell, tuba

Altar Guild

Whitney Worthington

Usher(s)

Joel May/Malcolm Abrahaman
(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Grayson Beckman family

SERVING NEXT WEEK

QUINQUAGESIMA

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Elder*

Emilie 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

Jeni Miller/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Joel May/Malcolm Abrahaman
(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)

TBD

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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."

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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 2/8	Sexagesima Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Imagine the God of Heaven</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting Super Bowl Party	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 Hour 3:30 PM
Monday 2/9	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 2/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 2/11	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel Midweek Prayer	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM 12:15 PM
Thursday 2/12	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 2/13	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 2/14	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 2/15	Quinquagesima Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Imagine the God of Heaven</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 Hour

LOVING THE LORD

† Adult Bible Study: *Imagine the God of Heaven*

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

Church fellowship hall

Imagine the God of Heaven is a five-session Bible study series, which introduces you to people from all ethnicities who have had near death experiences and met the same loving God. Within five short sessions, John Burke (author of *Imagine the God of Heaven*, and who has researched nearly 2,000 near death experiences) discusses the character traits of this God, who has been revealed throughout history and in Scripture. God's love, power, compassion, friendship, and guidance are closer than you could ever imagine. Find out just how close and real He is for you!

"Captivating stories of near-death experiences with biblical principles." (Lee Strobel)

† Adult Bible Study: *"Follow Me": Discipleship in Matthew*

Sundays at 9:00 A.M. during the season of Lent, beginning February 22.

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!

† **Shrove Tuesday**

Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary/fellowship hall

Join us on Shrove Tuesday as we gather for a meaningful service that prepares our hearts for the season of Lent. Shrove Tuesday, observed on the day before Ash Wednesday, has been part of the Christian tradition for centuries. The word “shrive” means to confess and receive absolution. Historically, this day was set aside for self-examination, repentance, and forgiveness as believers prepared to enter the 40 days of Lent. It is also known as Pancake Day or Fat Tuesday, marking a final celebration before the more reflective season begins. Our Shrove Tuesday service will include a service of corporate confession, offering us the opportunity to come together in humility, repentance, and renewal as the body of Christ. Following the service, everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship dinner, celebrating our life together in community. A special appearance will be made by the Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, Bishop of the English District. All are welcome—come prepare your heart, share in worship, and enjoy fellowship with one another.

† **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, February 18 at Noon & 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

You are invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service, marking the beginning of the season of Lent—a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal in the life of the Church. Ash Wednesday has been observed by Christians since the early centuries of the Church. On this day, ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross as a visible sign of our mortality and our need for God’s mercy, echoing the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ashes call us to repentance and faith as we begin our Lenten journey toward the cross and the resurrection. This service will include a Mass with the Imposition of Ashes. We are also honored to welcome the Bishop of the English District, the Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, who will be preaching. All are welcome to attend as we enter this solemn and hope-filled season together.

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

Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 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.

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

† **Super Bowl Party**

Sunday, February 8 at 3:30 P.M. (6:00 start time).
The Morrs (see church directory for home address)

Whether you're a football fan or just there for the fellowship, you won't want to miss the annual Super Bowl Party! Hot dogs, burgers, and beer will be provided. Attendees are invited to bring a big game appetizer or snack to share. See you there!

† **Men's Group: "You are a Royal Priesthood" Bible Breakfast**

Saturday, February 28 at 10:00 A.M.
Church sanctuary

All men are invited to our upcoming Men's Bible Breakfast for a time of fellowship, food, and study in God's Word. Breakfast items and beverages will be provided and served—no need to bring anything but your appetite and an open heart. Enjoy a relaxed meal together as we gather around the table. Our Bible study theme will focus on who we are as a "Royal Priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9) and what that identity means for our daily lives, faith, and witness. We'll explore how God calls us to live with purpose, humility, and boldness as men set apart for His work. Come be encouraged, challenged, and strengthened alongside other men as we grow together in Christ. 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.

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- † Kati Durden, 2/11

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- † None this week

Confirmation Anniversary:

- † None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- † None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- † None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- † Rev. Dr. James Clark (friend of the congregation)
- † James Houchin (friend of Jordan Tomesch)
- † Cathy Hoyer (aunt of Pastor Miller)
- † John Kateau
- † Gerhard (Gary) Knehans (brother of Jan Knehans)
- † Jan Knehans
- † John Lamb (father of Pastor Miller's friend)
- † Betty Licht
- † Nena Nnanna (Open Arms teacher)
- † Carol Scheid (mother of Pastor Miller's friend)
- † Joshua Schoellen (brother of Jason Schoellen)
- † Melanie Schoellen (sister of Jason Schoellen)
- † Rev. Aaron Sterling (Senior Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)
- † Mike Warnke (father of Abby Warnke)
- † Paul Von Wedel (father of Jill Drachenberg)

Other Recent Requests

- † Tanzania, especially the persecuted Christians, that God would heal all divisions.

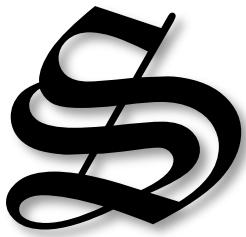
Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- † David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- † David and Phyllis Beckman (parents of Brian Beckman)
- † Thomasena Gaither (sister of Ruth Henry)
- † Ruth Henry
- † John & Felista Kaale (uncle & aunt of Hellen Kaale)
- † Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- † Shirley Lee (friend of Ruth Henry)
- † Jean Meyers (former member of Ascension)
- † Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- † Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- † Pat Vines (mother of Darlene Beckman's friend)
- † Evan Wells (nephew of Darlene Beckman)
- † Jason Wilson (coworker of Hellen Kaale)

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



O FAITH COMES FROM HEARING, AND HEARING THROUGH THE WORD
OF CHRIST. – ROMANS 10:17



THE LUTHERAN
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ASCENSION

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