

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

Divine Service, Setting Four

As We Gather

How then shall we live? What a profound question for Christians to consider midway through Lent! The Lord has shown His mercy to us, forgiven our sins, and delivered us from death. Then what? What is the focus of our lives? The call of the Readings for this Sunday points us to the repentance that bears the good fruit of God’s kingdom. Like trees that have failed to produce good fruit, the Lord has tended us with His Word, with the warning of the Law and the promise of the Gospel. But if the tree remains unfruitful, the tree will have to be cut down. It is a hard word to hear, but God remains merciful, and most of all, He seeks that we bear the good fruits of faith and repentance in our daily lives.

614 “As Surely as I Live,” God Said



1 “As sure - ly as I live,” God said, “I would not
2 And so our Lord gave this com - mand: “Go forth and
3 “All those whose sins you thus re - mit I tru - ly
4 “What you will bind, that bound shall be; What you will



see the sin - ner dead. I want him turned from
preach in ev - 'ry land; Be - stow on all My
par - don and ac - quit, And those whose sins you
loose, that shall be free; To My dear Church the



er - ror's ways, Re - pen - tant, liv - ing end - less days.”
par - d'ning grace Who will re - pent and mend their ways.
will re - tain Con - demned and guilt - y shall re - main.
keys are giv'n To o - pen, close the gates of heav'n.”

5 The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.

7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be
For absolution full and free,
In which You show Your richest grace;
From false indulgence guard our race.

6 When ministers lay on their hands,
Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
He who by grace the Word believes
The purchase of His blood receives.

△ 8 Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As was, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally!

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.
Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674-1707
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

- P** For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.
- C** **For you are not a God who delights in | wickedness;*
evil may not | dwell with you.**
- P** The boastful shall not stand be- | fore your eyes;*
you hate all evil- | doers.
- C** **You destroy those | who speak lies;*
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and de- | ceitful man.**
- P** But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will en- | ter your house.*
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the | fear of you.
- C** **Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my | enemies;*
make your way straight be- | fore me.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
- P** For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
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.**

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–20

P ⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

P ¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that
Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P ¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -
 vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,
 To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,
 health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
 earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!
 And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -
 mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
 Tune: David Lee, 1956
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Sermon

Unless YOU Repent

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For repentance and faith in Christ, that God would guard us from doubt and deliver us, lest we perish, to life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For a faithful proclamation of truth, that God would embolden pastors to warn of sin and death and give all Christians strength to defend that message, that sinners would be turned to life through the proclamation of Christ and His salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For protection against immorality, that God would make our homes havens of chastity and godly instruction, filling marriages with fidelity and love, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those in authority, that God who establishes justice by His Law, which is for all, would enlighten them to rule justly for true good, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who cry to the Lord for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil, [*especially* _____,] that the Lord would deliver and heal them and strengthen their faith to look to Him for help, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all good works, that we, brought into God's vineyard and appointed to bear fruit, would show forth His love and grace in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Almighty God, You led Your people, Israel, through the sea and fed them in the wilderness until You delivered them to the Promised Land. You also have faithfully enlivened Your people with Christ by means of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Receive our thanks for Your kindness to the saints who now rest from their labors, and sustain us by Your Means of Grace until You deliver us also to heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Stand

956 Create in Me

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.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Welcome to our Visitors

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 or an elder.

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

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

LSB 208

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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

P 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.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this
wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,
He saved us from the e - vil foe.
And with the wine the blood He shed.
His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.

8 "For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?"

9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369-1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug, alt.
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764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love



1 When aim - less vi - o - lence takes those we love,
2 When pass - ing years rob sight and strength and mind
3 Our faith may flick - er low, and hope grow dim,
4 Be - cause Your Son knew ag - o - ny and loss,
5 Through long grief - dark - ened days help us, dear Lord,



When ran - dom death strikes child - hood's prom - ise down,
Yet fail to still a strong - ly beat - ing heart,
Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain;
Felt des - o - la - tion, grief and scorn and shame,
To trust Your grace for cour - age to en - dure,



When wrench - ing loss be - comes our dai - ly bread,
And grief be - comes the fab - ric of our days,
You grieve with us and for us day by day,
We know You will be with us, come what may,
To rest our souls in Your sup - port - ing love,



We know, O God, You leave us not a - lone.
Dear Lord, You do not stand from us a - part.
And with us, shar - ing sor - row, will re - main.
Your lov - ing pres - ence near, al - ways the same.
And find our hope with - in Your mer - cy sure.

Text: Joy F. Patterson, 1931
Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879-1971
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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
 Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

595 O Blessed Spring



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953

Tune: English

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Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Genesis at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory by Becky Rosson.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at 10am. They are studying the Book of Numbers.

Church Council next meeting is **March 20** at 8am.

Lent Services will be **March 23, 30, and April 6**. A light meal will be served at **6:30pm** with **Lenten Vespers** at **7pm**. Look for the dinner sign-up sheets in the library.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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