

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851

Canton, Texas 75103

www.holycrosscanton.com

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Third Sunday in Lent – Oculi (Eyes)

March 12, 2023

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

Of our Gospel reading, Martin Luther wrote, “This is a beautiful Gospel in which we learn a great deal about many different things, and in it there is portrayed almost all that Christ, His kingdom, and Gospel are. We learn what the Gospel achieves and how it makes its way in the world.

“First of all, as do all the Gospels, it teaches us faith and love, for it holds up Christ before us as a savior and help in all needs, out of His great love. He who believes this is saved.

“Here we see also that He has nothing to do with those who are well but with the poor man who is ailing under many troubles. He was blind, as Matthew tells us (Matthew 12:22), and dumb and possessed by a demon, as Luke says. Most of the deaf are also dumb, so that in Greek the same word is used for deaf and dumb.

“The concern of Jesus for this poor man is an incentive for us to turn to Him in every need, expecting from Him all that is good. After experiencing good at His hands, we should follow Him in love and do good to others, as He has done good to us. This is the common and most delightful teaching of this Gospel and of all the Gospels throughout the whole church year.

“This poor dumb man, moreover, did not come to Jesus without the Word. Those who brought him to Jesus must have heard of Christ’s love, and this moved them to put their trust in Him. Let us always remember that faith comes through the Word.” (Luther’s Works AE Vol. 76, pg. 392)

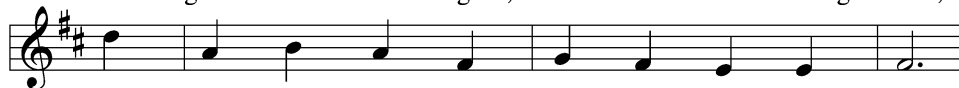
788 Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
4 Teach us, O Lord, true thank - ful - ness di - vine,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
That gives as Christ gave, nev - er count - ing cost,



For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,
For Christ Your Son, and for each hu - man face
For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways
That knows no bar - ri - er of “yours” and “mine,”



While of Your rich - er gifts we’re un - a - ware:
That shows Your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er’s needs:
As - sured that on - ly what’s with - held is lost.

5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

6 Open our eyes to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
May thankfulness be days in service spent,
Reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.

Text: William Watkins Reid, Sr., 1890–1983, alt.

Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971

Text: © 1965, renewed 1993 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Tune: © 1990 Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, N.J. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

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 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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

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.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 25:1–2, 17–18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15–16

P My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

C **To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.**

P O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame,*
let not my enemies exult | over me.

C **The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.**

P Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.

C **Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!***
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

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 My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 8:16–24

R The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 8.

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.”’” ²⁴And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1–9

R The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 5.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P ¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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.**

Sit

659 Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594-1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799-1855, alt.
Tune: Antiphoner, 1746, Poitiers
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

“Empty houses”

Offering

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken sts. 1-2

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



☩ 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.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For spiritual weapons and tongues sharpened by the words of Christ, that His people would be guarded against all powers of the devil, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For patience to hear God's words of rebuke in faith, for sincerity in our repentance, and for the forgiveness He eagerly extends to His people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For mothers and fathers, that they would be imitators of God to lead their children in the way of light, living repentant lives in this world with hope in the life of the world to come, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the leaders of our land, that they would humble themselves under the hand of God and serve their people sacrificially in every danger or need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For seasonable weather, for protection against plague and famine, and that creation would bear rich fruit according to her Creator's gracious design, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those afflicted by any adversity, whether of body or soul, [*especially* _____,] that God would lead them by His Spirit to renewed strength and peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P 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.

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Stand

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

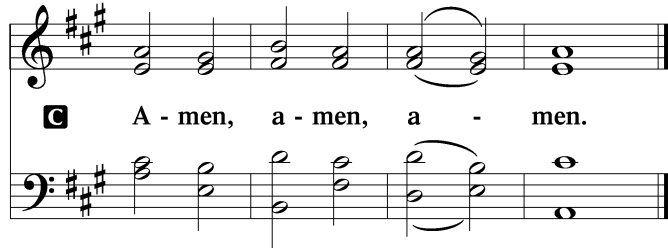
LSB 202

- P** Bless we the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

836 O God of Light



- 1 O God of light, Your Word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
- 2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
- 3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing,
- 4 To all the world Your sum - mons You are send - ing,



Shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
Though we re - belled, You gent - ly sought a - gain
To sin - ful hearts Your jus - tice and Your grace;
Through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



And show Your grace, Your plan for us un - veil - ing,
And spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
And quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for Your heal - ing,
That myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



And guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
Who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
See Your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
May praise and cel - e - brate Your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883-1954, alt.

Tune: H. Barrie Cabena, 1933

Text: © 1952, renewed 1980 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Exodus at **9am** on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory for Betty Reich's son's birthday.

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

Church Council next meeting is **Mar 19** at **8am**.

Lenten Vespers services are **Mar 15, 22, & 29**. A light meal will be at **6:30pm** with service at **7pm**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.