## + Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Fourth Sunday in Lent – Laetare (Rejoice)

March 19, 2023

**Divine Service, Setting Three** 

#### As We Gather

Happiness and contentment are hard to find. Even with our abundance of possessions and opportunity, our hearts remain restless for things new and different, for the promise of something better. Paul reminds us that contentment does not come from having everything we desire, but with faith in the Lord, who is gracious and merciful and supplies all our needs. Today, we hear the terrible news of John the Baptist's martyrdom and a crowd restless with hunger. In the midst of it all, Jesus shows forth grace to rest our fears and satisfy us with all we need. We pray that we learn to trust in the Lord and to find contentment and peace in His grace sufficient for all things.



## **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,
- 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,
- 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 122:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a

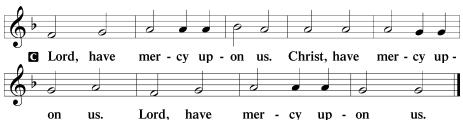
- P Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,\* all you who | love her; that you may nurse and be | satisfied\* from her con- | soling breast.
- I was glad when they | said to me,\*
  "Let us go to the house | of the LORD!"
- Our feet have been | standing\* within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
- Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!\*
  May they be secure who | love you!
- For my brothers and com- | panions' sake\* I will say, "Peace be with- | in you!"
- 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 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,\* all you who | love her;

that you may nurse and be | satisfied\* from her con- | soling breast.

Kyrie LSB 186



# Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 16:2-21

The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 16.

<sup>2</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling." <sup>10</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent." <sup>17</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. <sup>19</sup>And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." <sup>20</sup>But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. <sup>21</sup>Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

- R This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

**Epistle** Galatians 4:22—5:1a

**R** The Epistle is from Galatians, chapters 4 and 5.

<sup>22</sup>For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup>But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup>Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup>Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>For it is written,

"Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;

break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more

than those of the one who has a husband."

<sup>28</sup>Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup>But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. <sup>30</sup>But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." <sup>31</sup>So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel John 6:1–15

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup>Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup>Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

<sup>15</sup>Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

to

be

### **Nicene Creed**

Praise

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,

0

Christ.

Thee,

Sit

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.

## 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



5 Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour,
O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Sermon Overflowing bread

Offering 652 Father, We Thank Thee

Stand



#### Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For confidence in the gift of Baptism, that it would unite us evermore in the death and resurrection of Christ; and that we would continue together in its comfort and power, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For all pastors, that they would serve their people devoutly and feed them with the bread of life; and for all congregations in their care, that they would receive this faithful service with thankful hearts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the families of the Church, those blessed with children and those yet without, that they may treasure together their heavenly inheritance, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

LSB 192

- For all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation, that God would strengthen homes and keep families firm in the Christian faith; and that He would preserve our nation from wickedness and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- That God's heavenly care would extend to each of His children, [and especially to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,] that they may rejoice in this sustaining and healing grace, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For the bread of heaven, which does not decay after one day but abides with us forever; and that Christ would sustain us through the wilderness of this world to life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- Heavenly Father, Your Son multiplied bread and fish for thousands, showing Himself to be the Creator and Giver of every good gift. Multiply the gifts of body and soul You provide from Your gracious hand, and cause us to receive Your benefits with thanksgiving; 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.

### 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; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

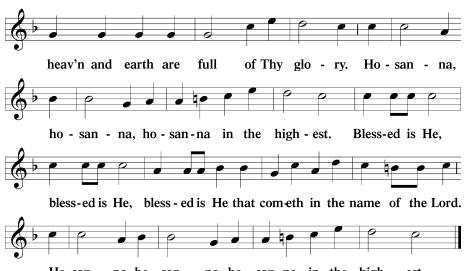
## Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 194

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- **C** It is meet and right so to do.
- 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 LSB 195





Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

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.

 $\mathbf{C}$ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord LSB 197

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."

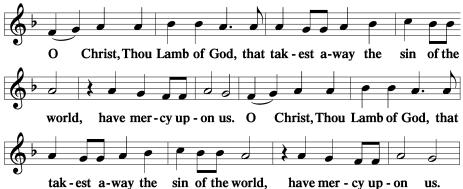
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

 $\mathbf{C}$ Amen.

**Agnus Dei** LSB 198





Sit

#### Distribution



Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957
Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695–1755, alt.
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### 642 O Living Bread from Heaven



Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



LSB 199



Thanksgiving LSB 200

- **P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- **C** and His mercy endureth forever.
- **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.
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus LSB 202

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

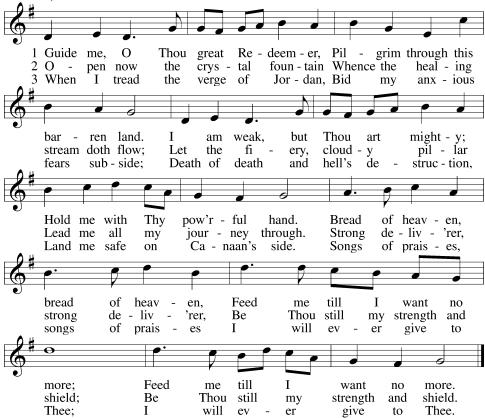
Benediction LSB 202

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

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.



# 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text and tune: Public domain

#### **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.

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 22, & 29. A light meal will be at 6:30pm with service at 7pm.

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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