# + Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

# **Divine Service, Setting Two**

#### As We Gather

A main emphasis of our Lenten discipline is our struggle against temptations to sin and toward true repentance that leads to living faithful Christian lives. As our physical well-being depends in part on healthy choices of diet, in today's Readings God uses the metaphor of eating and drinking to warn and encourage His people to avoid the temptations of the world and our own sin that leads us away from God and to rely constantly on the forgiveness and faith that God provides to enable us to lead godly lives. In the Epistle, Paul has in mind how God provides for us in His Word and Sacraments. We are to remember not only that we were baptized but that we are baptized, meaning God still provides us with saving, bold faith that relies on His mercy and grace because we belong to Him now. The center of the Divine Service is the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, through which we are given forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—all the benefits won for us by the cross and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Today we are encouraged to receive and rely on God's gifts and provision constantly, that we may maintain a healthy and strong faith in the face of all adversities and challenges.

## 614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said



- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- △ 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**

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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- 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.

Introit

# Service of the Word

P For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,\* but the way of the wicked will | perish.

For you are not a God who delights in | wickedness;\* evil may not | dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand be- | fore your eyes;\* you hate all evil- | doers.

You destroy those | who speak lies;\*

the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and de- | ceitful man.

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.

Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my | enemies;\* make your way straight be- | fore me.

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.

For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,\* but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Kyrie LSB 168

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.

Psalm 5:4-8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

# 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.

Sit

# **Old Testament Reading**

Ezekiel 33:7–20

The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 33.

<sup>7</sup>"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. <sup>8</sup>If 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. <sup>9</sup>But 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.

<sup>10</sup>"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?' <sup>11</sup>Say 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?

<sup>12</sup>"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. <sup>13</sup>Though 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. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if 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. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

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

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

Epistle 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

**R** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 10.

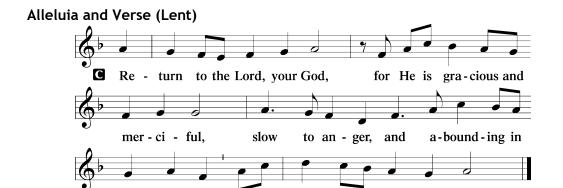
<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they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

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do 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." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now 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. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No 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.

LSB 173

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

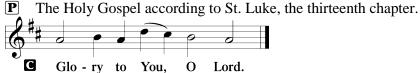
Stand



stead-fast love, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1–9



There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or 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? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And 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?' <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

### 824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace



#### Sermon

Stand

### Nicene Creed

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.

## Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For repentance and faith in Christ, that God would guard us from doubt and deliver us to life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- 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; and that sinners would be turned to life through the proclamation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For protection against sexual 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.
- For protection when we are tempted, that God in His faithfulness would guard us from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that He will provide the way of escape; and that He would strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until He delivers, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- 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, strengthening their faith to look to Him for help, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all who commune, that the Lord who abounds in steadfast love would give them a holy fear of His wrath and faith in His promises in the body and blood of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

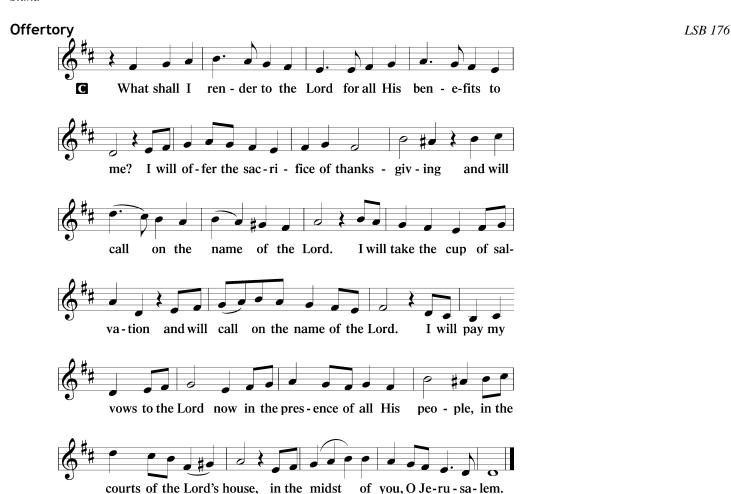
- Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit

Offering

638 Eat This Bread sts. ref-2

Stand



### 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 177

- **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.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- 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 178



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer LSB 179

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

 $\mathbf{C}$ 

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."

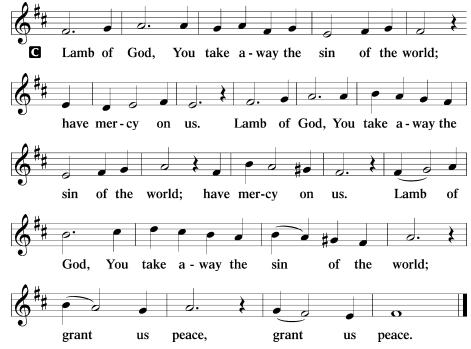
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 180

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

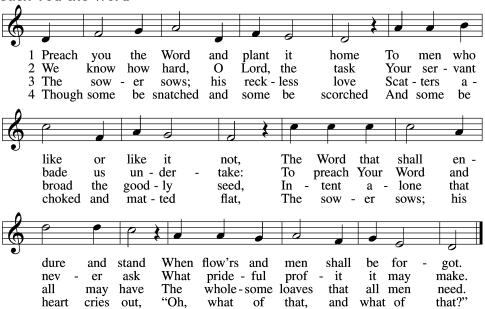
C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 180



#### Distribution

### 586 Preach You the Word



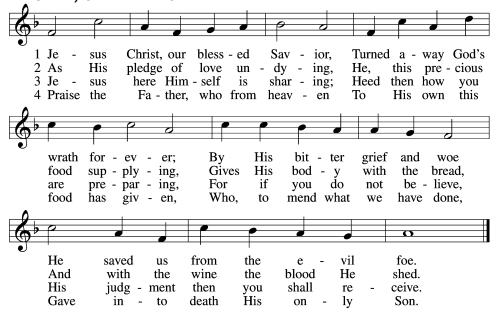
5 Of all his scattered plenteousness One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat, And bears a harvest hundredfold: "Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt. Tune: Rheinfelssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg

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6 Preach you the Word and plant it home And never faint; the Harvest Lord Who gave the sower seed to sow Will watch and tend His planted Word.

## 627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



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.

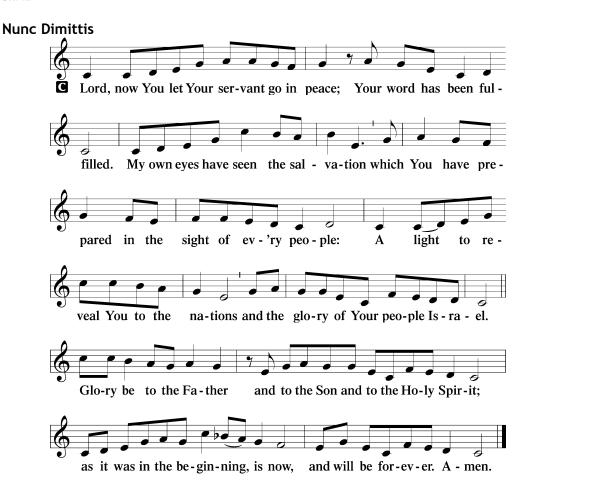
- Christ says: "Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor: Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill.
- 8 "For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying? And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"

- 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.

LSB 182

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 auffs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug, alt.
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Text (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9) and tune: Public domain

Stand



### **Post-Communion Collect**

Let us pray.

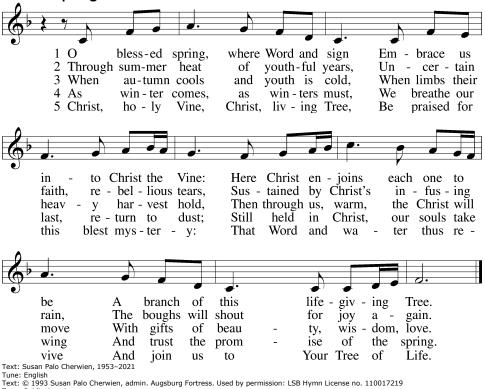
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 $\mathbf{C}$ Amen.

**Benediction** LSB 183

- 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.





## Announcements

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

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

The Ladies Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 10am studying Esther.

Church Council next meeting is Apr 13 at 8am.

The next Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is Sat. Apr 12 at 9am.

Lenten Services are on Mar. 26, Apr. 2 & 9 with dinner at 6:30pm & service at 7pm

March has a Fifth Sunday! Get your hymn ideas to Pastor Huston by Mar 23.

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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