

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851

Canton, Texas 75103

[www.holycrosscanton.com](http://www.holycrosscanton.com)

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Sixth Midweek of Lent

March 25, 2026

Service of Prayer and Preaching LSB p.260

As We Gather

The Lord heard the cries of the Israelites and provided deliverance from the Egyptians by crossing the Red Sea. But not very much later, they grumbled that the Lord was not providing for them. Like the Israelites, we, too, have been provided with divine deliverance. Our enemies are sin, death, and the power of the devil, all of which have been defeated in Christ. And yet we, too, grumble. Today we hear the good news of how God sustains us on our journey, feeding us with the bread of life and the promise of eternal life in heaven.

814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie  
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;  
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!  
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.  
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;  
He gives the suff'ers rest.  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud  
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
By His beloved Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76  
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Opening Versicles

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

**P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

**P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** He was bruised for our iniquities.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticle

*Refrain*

**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sit

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Reading

*Exodus 16:1–18, 35*

**R** A reading from Exodus, chapter 16.

<sup>1</sup>They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <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>35</sup>The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

**R** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

*Philippians 4:10–13*

**R** A reading from Philippians, chapter 4.

<sup>10</sup>I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. <sup>11</sup>Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup>I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**R** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Reading

*John 6:25–35*

**P** A reading from John, chapter 6.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” <sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

- L** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- L** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- L** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

## Ten Commandments

- C** You shall have no other gods.  
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.  
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.  
Honor your father and your mother.  
You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## 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.

## 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.

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this  
 2 O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain Whence the heal-ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious  
 bar-ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might-y;  
 stream doth flow; Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar  
 fears sub-side; Death of death and hell's de-struction,  
 Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,  
 Lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer,  
 Land me safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es,  
 bread of heav-en, Feed me till I want no  
 strong de-liv-'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais-es I will ev-er give to  
 more; Feed me till I want no more.  
 shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
 Thee; I will ev-er give to Thee.

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

Sermon

Offering

426 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Stand

Litany (Lent)

LSB 249

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** 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.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For Matthew our synodical president and Jon our district president, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For Donald our president and Gregory our governor, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayers then continue:*

- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

- L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

#### **Collect of the Day**

- P** Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

#### **Collect for the Word**

- 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.**

#### **Collect for Peace**

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

#### **Evening Prayer**

- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**  
**Amen.**

## Canticle

### 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

## Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

### 745 In God, My Faithful God

1 In God, my faith - ful God, I trust when dark my road;  
2 My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not de - spair.  
3 If death my por - tion be, It brings great gain to me;  
4 O Je - sus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,  
5 "So be it," then, I say With all my heart each day.

Great woes may o - ver - take me, Yet He will not for - sake me.  
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock noth - ing moves me.  
It speeds my life's en - deav - or To live with Christ for - ev - er.  
You suf - fered death to save us Be - cause Your love would have us  
Dear Lord, we all a - dore You, We sing for joy be - fore You.

My trou - bles He can al - ter; His hand lets noth - ing fal - ter.  
To Him I will sur - ren - der, To Him, my soul's de - fend - er.  
He gives me joy in sor - row, Come death now or to - mor - row.  
Be heirs of heav'n - ly glad - ness When ends this life of sad - ness.  
Guide us while here we wan - der Un - til we praise You yon - der.

Text: Veer schöne nye Geistlike Leder, before 1603, Lübeck; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Kurtzweilige teutsche Lieder, 1576, Nürnberg, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **Announcements**

**Adult Sunday School** is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Proverbs.

**Midweek Lent Services** are **Mar 25**. Dinner at **5:45pm** and Service at **6:30pm**.

In preparation for Easter, **Church Clean-up Day** is Sat **Mar 28** starting at **9am**.

The **Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service** is Thurs. **Apr 2** at **6pm**.

**Easter Potluck Breakfast** is Sun. **Apr 5** at **8:30am**. We will be no Sunday School that morning.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Apr 11** at **9am**.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Apr 12** at **8am**.

## **Acknowledgments**

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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