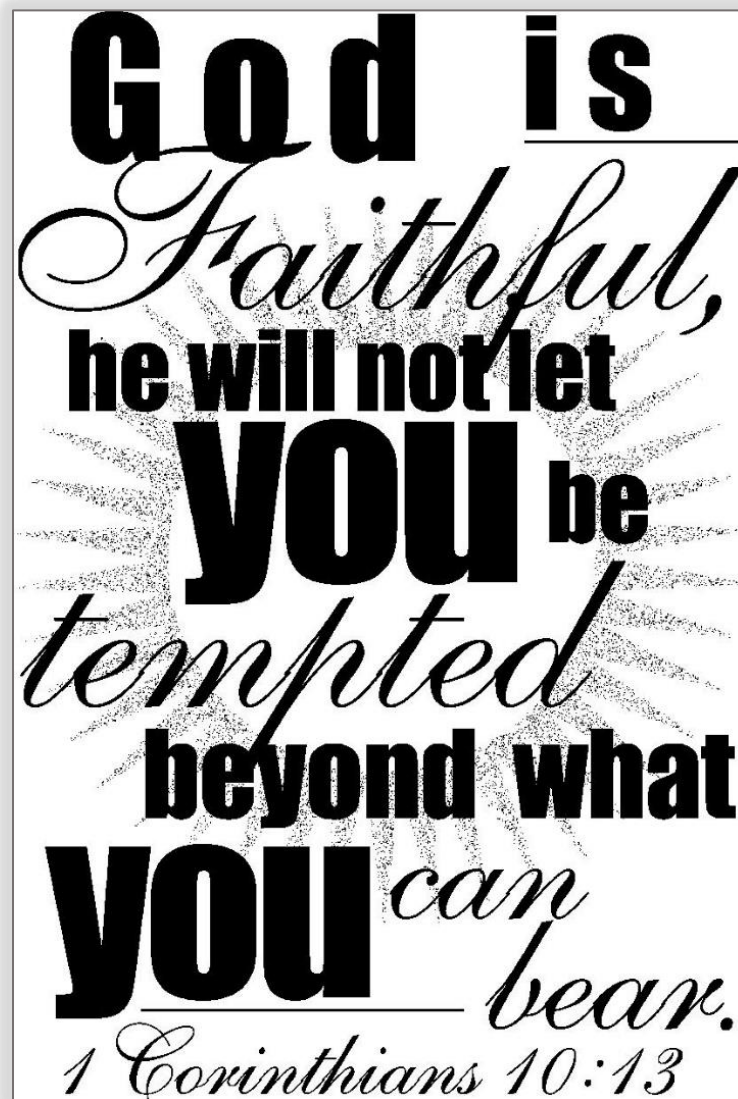


# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together  
toward abundant life in Christ.*

## **THEME: HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD**

<sup>47</sup> *Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:*  
<sup>48</sup> *he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.*  
*And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. Luke 6:47–48 (ESV)*

### **SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING**

*(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 260)*

**A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY:** We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

**A REMINDER:** Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

### **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.

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS**

# OPENING HYMN

O God, My Faithful God

LSB 696 sts. 1–3



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing  
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
What - ev - er You com-mand, My call-ing here ful - fill - ing;  
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in  
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless  
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,



A con-science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.  
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.  
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION & OPENING VERSICLES

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

*Psalm 118:24*

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

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

*Psalm 113:3*

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

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

*Psalm 84:10*

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord. *Psalm 25:4*

C **Teach me Your paths.**

P Sanctify us in Your truth. *John 17:17*

C **Your Word is truth.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting, *Psalm 113:3*

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.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in the Small Catechism informs and directs us with these words, which summarizes it well.

C **Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**

P Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

*(Silence for personal confession of sins)*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and cannot free ourselves. Daily our sins of thought, word, and deed cause us grief. We have forgotten You even when we needed You the most. Our love for our neighbors has faded. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we come at His invitation seeking the true rest of the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

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 to 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## CATECHISM REVIEW

P Today we review the third commandment.

P Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.**

P What is the Sabbath day?

C **In the Old Testament, God set aside the seventh day (Saturday) as a day of rest for His people to worship and to ponder the power and goodness of God in His work of creation and the graciousness of God's work of redemption.**

*Deuteronomy 5:12, 15* Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.... You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

P What were some features of the Sabbath in the Old Testament?

C **The Sabbath provided time for physical rest and the Sabbath provided time for spiritual rest through worship, fellowship, and devotion to God's Word and promises.**

*Exodus 23:12* Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

P What is the significance of the Sabbath for the Church today?

C **Although God no longer requires us to observe the Sabbath day (Saturday) and other particular holy days of the Old Testament, this commandment continues to apply to our Christian life and worship.**

*Colossians 2:16–17* Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

P We continue to need not only physical rest, but most important, rest from the impossible task of seeking security, righteousness, and salvation through our efforts, work, and accomplishments.

*Mark 6:30–31* The apostles returned to Jesus and told Him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

C **The Sabbath was a sign pointing to Jesus, who gives us spiritual rest from the burden of our sins.**

*Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

P God wants us to be regularly engaged with His Word and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips (**Psalm 119:11–13**). God’s Word is the treasure that sanctifies everything.

*1 Timothy 4:4–5 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.*

C **Therefore, Christians gladly hear God’s Word and set aside time to worship on Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead. Indeed, Christians engage the Word of God daily in their devotions and prayers. God’s Word delivers what it promises.**

*Romans 14:5–6 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

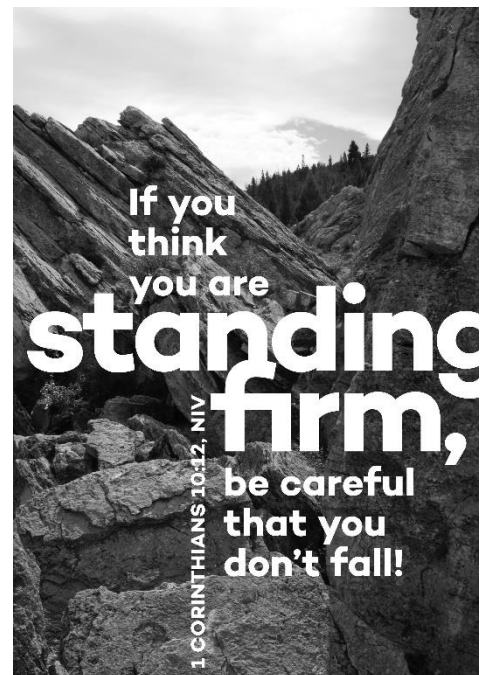
*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

<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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30AM)

*(Children, and parents of little ones, are invited forward to the chancel area.)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 13:1–9*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>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.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## RESPONSORY

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

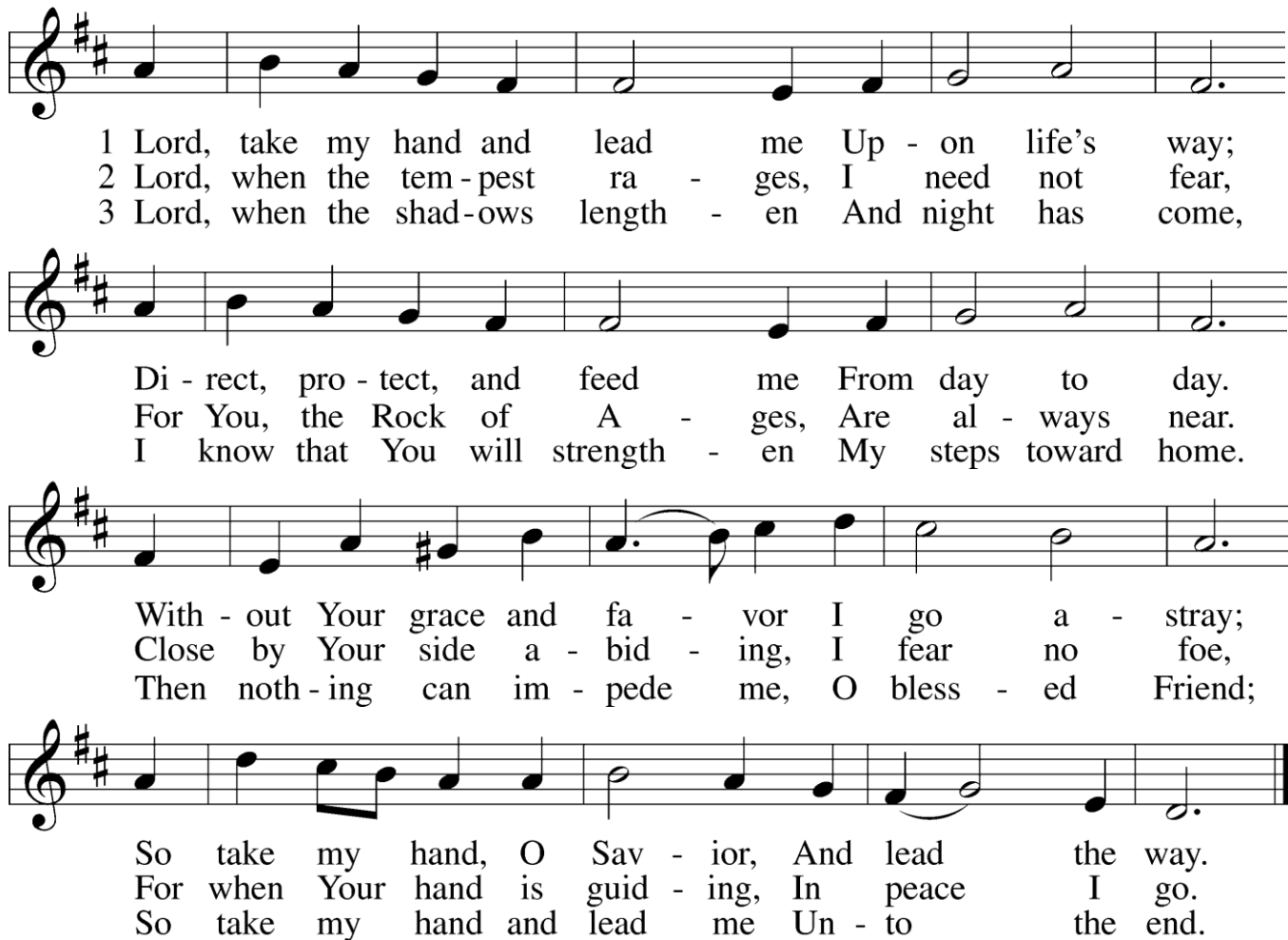
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the T Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**







1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,  
 Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
 For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
 I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.  
 With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
 Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
 Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;  
 So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
 For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
 So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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## SERMON

Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann

## OFFERING

*For those worshipping online, please visit [www.lccross.org](http://www.lccross.org) to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>*



*For those worshipping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.*



1. Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence;  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12

Text: Public domain

**SPECIAL MUSIC (10:30AM)** “Jesus, Our Hope, Our Hearts Desire” Vocal Choir

## PRAYER

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

P For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [*the family of Gayle Kasch, the family of Dale Kuhn, the family of Sam Sayers (friends of Lori Nelson), Joyce Schankin, Ron Scheff, Ken Werring*]. . .  
let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC “*The Lord’s Prayer*”**

### **MORNING PRAYER**

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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

### **BENEDICAMUS**

*LSB 267*

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 T give you peace.  
C **Amen.**





1 Her - ald, sound the note of judg - ment, Warn - ing  
 2 Her - ald, sound the note of glad - ness; Tell the  
 3 Her - ald, sound the note of par - don— Those re -  
 4 Her - ald, sound the note of tri - umph; Christ has



us of right and wrong, Turn - ing us from sin and  
 news that Christ is here; Make a path - way through the  
 pent - ing are for - giv'n; God re - ceives His way - ward  
 come to share our life, Bring - ing God's own love and



sad - ness Till once more we sing the song.  
 des - ert For the one who brings God near.  
 chil - dren, And to them new life is giv'n.  
 pow - er, Grant - ing vic - t'ry in our strife.

*Refrain*



Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mes-sage: Christ, the Sav-ior king, is come!

Text: Moir A. J. Waters, 1906–80

Tune: David McCarthy, 1931

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Tune: © 1975 Stainer & Bell Ltd, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

## SILENT PRAYER & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

#### Acknowledgments

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**Easter Lily Request Cards will be available in the Narthex beginning Next Sunday!**  
**Please be on the lookout for them on our Narthex Cross 03/30!**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk  
Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann  
Guest Organist: Sarah Stolarczyk ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk  
Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering  
Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman  
Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

March 23, 2025

*Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ*

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The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by  
Jeff & Elisabeth Geltz in remembrance of

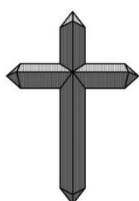
Howard & Ruth Geltz, Laurie Thiboutot & Robert Adam.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by  
Scott & Rene Riley in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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### **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Bell Tollers	Barb Powell, Luke Stolarczyk
Elders on Duty	Tim Boisseau, Mark Keck
Greeters/Ushers	Gary Fleming, Kay Helgersen, Donna Leach
Altar Servers	Pam Specht, Joyce Spier
Safety Team	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Streaming Team	Gloria Cvelbar, Alex Scherer, Luke Stolarczyk



### **OFFICE HOURS:**

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm  
(941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: [secretary@lccross.org](mailto:secretary@lccross.org)

Find us on the Web: [www.lccross.org](http://www.lccross.org)

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

**IF YOU HAVE** any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator	Jennifer Strefling:	941-627-6060
Head Elder	Jim McCabe:	847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach	<u>Pastor Stolarczyk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-979-7490</u>
	<u>Pastor Menk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### **Homebound Care:**

John & Lois Arens, Bob Bartelson, Fran Boatwright, George & Dee Buono, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Betty Golembieski, Hedi Heinrich, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Val Korman, Dale Kuhn, Millie Tyczka

### **Strength, Healing, Guidance: \***

Jim DeGroot	Recovery & healing
Marlin & Millie Doctor	Friends of LCC; healing & recovery
Tracy Fisher	Daughter of Sue Heim; recovery & healing
Sam Jackson	Healing & recovery
Virderie Kaminska	Continued recovery & healing
The family of Gayle Kasch	Peace & understanding
The family of Dale Kuhn	Peace & understanding
Cathy McCabe	Recovery & healing
Howard Meissner	Strength & healing
Janet Melvin	Recovery & healing
Chris Sabin	Healing & recovery
The family of Sam Sayers	Friends of LCC; peace & understanding, closure
Joyce Schankin	Recovery & full healing
Ron Scheff	Recovery
Grant Senkbeil	Nephew Steve & Lori Nelson; recovery & healing
Ronna Trueman	Recovery & healing
John Vogel	Strength & healing
Kathy Weaver	Recovery & healing
Ken & Mary Werring	Recovery & healing

*\*Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.*

### **Battling Cancer:**

Adriana	Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma
April	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer
Jeanette	Sister of Augusto Vazquez; battling cancer
Mike	Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Rick Bausch	Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer
Dave DeBraccio	Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength
Lisa DePalma	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Lisa Anne Denofrio	Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care
Bill Docherty	Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Randy Hornby	Friend of Dorothy Christman; battling cancer

Robert Jeffery  
 John Kewn  
 Todd Klietz  
 Audrey Kowalski  
 Patricia Ruiz  
 Lisa Sayers  
 Tracy Shattuck  
 Carmen Torres  
 Lori Truelove  
 Connie Warner  
 Michael Woodruff

Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia  
 Son-in-law Davis & Del Rozak; battling cancer  
 Battling cancer  
 Friend of Dorothy Christman; terminal cancer  
 Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer  
 Friend of LCC; battling cancer  
 Brother Meredith Kecken; battling cancer, healing  
 Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer  
 Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace  
 Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma  
 Son of Phil & Mary Woodruff; battling cancer

### **Military:**

US Army SSG. Paul Behling  
 USAF TSGT David Cope Jr.  
 US Army CSM Matt Hopkins  
 USAF Sr. Airman

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL  
 Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM  
 Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait  
 Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Shawn Golembieski  
 US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski  
 US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski  
 USCG SCPO Robert Kecken  
 USAF A1C Riley Latarski  
 Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz  
 Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker  
 USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell  
 US Army PFC Parker Woodruff

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA  
 Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound  
 Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA  
 Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND  
 Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD  
 Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA  
 Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA  
 Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort Bragg

**Family Prayer:** We remember all our **families** during times of personal and family **trial and tribulation.**

We commend to our gracious God the body and soul of Gayle Kasch, beloved member of LCC and the body & soul of Dale Kuhn, beloved member of LCC.

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.

### **LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT** **& WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2025**

Week Of: 03/16/2025			
On-Site Attendance	Weekly Contributions		
	Income:	\$7,619	
	Expense:	\$ 11,170	

50 / 132

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

OFH = Old Fellowship Hall

Wed-Mar 26		Lent Worship ( <i>see times below</i> )
Sat-Mar 29	9:00am	Parish Life Workshop – FMC
Tues-Apr 1	1:00pm	Sarasota Circuit Meeting (Faith Lutheran, Parrish)
Wed-Apr 2		Lent Worship ( <i>see times below</i> )
Thurs-Apr 3	9:00am	Altar Guild Communion Set Up (Sacristy/Sanctuary)
	1:00pm	LWML Ladies Parish Guild Meeting (FMC)
Sat-Apr 5	11:00am	Memorial Service: Mueller (Sanctuary)
Tues-Apr 8	3:30pm	Board of Christian Education Meeting (FMC)
Wed-Apr 9		Lent Worship ( <i>see times below</i> )
Thurs-Apr 10	9:00am	Shepherding Leaders Meeting (FMC)
Sat-Apr 12	9:00am	Stephen Minister Supervision Meeting (OFH)
Sun-Apr 13		CONFIRMATION SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY



<b>Wed. March 26</b> <b>10:30am ~ 7:00pm</b>	<b>Lenten Worship Services</b> <b>"Breaking Down the Gates"</b>
<b>Wed. April 2</b> <b>10:30am ~ 7:00pm</b>	<b>Lenten Worship Services</b> <b>"Get Out!"</b>
<b>Wed. April 9</b> <b>10:30am ~ 7:00pm</b>	<b>Lenten Worship Services</b> <b>"One Little Word Can Fell Him"</b>
<b>Sun. April 13</b> <b>7:30am ~ 10:30am</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>"God Loves Small Things"</b>

### **LWML Ladies' Parish Guild, Dutch Treat Luncheon, Thursday, April 3 at 1:00pm**



The Ladies' Parish Guild will host it's annual Dutch Treat Luncheon on Thursday, April 3 at 1:00 pm. The luncheon is being held at Perkins Restaurant, 1700 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte. As a "thank you" for their support of our Ladies Guild, the Ladies Guild is buying lunch for the pastors, LCC staff and their families. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex through Sunday, March 30th, to place your reservation.





## **SPRINGTIME POTLUCK LUNCH!**

Our next congregational potluck will be held in the FMC building  
**Sunday, March 30, 2025** *Immediately following our late worship service*

We are asking the congregation to provide meal items:

meat dish ~ pasta / potato dish ~ veggies

salads ~ rolls ~ desserts

In order to have an accurate attendance count for set up, a sign-up sheet is located IN THE Narthex — *be sure to note the amount planning to attend the event and what your supplied food dish will be on the sign up!*

A dish is not required to attend this event!



The LCC Prayer Chain is an important ministry at LCC and we have been blessed to pray for many people over the past years for a multitude of crises - health issues, surgeries, comfort and peace for grief and worries, and also thanksgiving for many prayers answered for healing and success to name a few..

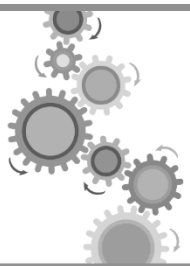
**It is time for the annual review of our active prayer chain and to seek out if anyone would like to join this highly important ministry!**

Please reach out to Cheryl Domingo at:

Email: [bygrace64@comcast.net](mailto:bygrace64@comcast.net) or via Phone: 941-276-7744

Or contact the church office at 941-627-6060 for more information or to join the LCC Prayer Chain today! **The new Prayer Chain contact list will be sent out in April, so please reach out by April 1st if you'd like to join or be removed from the chain.**

Operational  
Update



Please be aware that on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, the church and FMC security systems were updated to a newer more technological advanced system. At this current time, we believe to have carried over all of the old user alarm codes, so the code you had previously should still work.

Please be on the lookout for future notice of these changes to be coming. Upon this time, you will need to contact the office to obtain a user new user code, once we initiate the new code system) you will have to contact the church administrator to be given your new user code. In the later part of 2025 the current older codes will be deleted. appreciate your patience during this time.

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is "Lent"?

Lent is a season of the Church Year that lasts six weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. During these six weeks we look forward to Good Friday, the day our Lord died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to Easter Sunday, the day He rose from the dead to prove it!



## How can I remember to think about Jesus during Lent?

You can give up something you enjoy during Lent. You might see your parents give up their morning coffee. Maybe your brother or sister has decided not to eat candy during Lent. Every time you think about doing what you gave up for Lent, it will remind you of what Jesus gave up for you — His life! Blessings to you as you experience the wonderful journey of Lent!

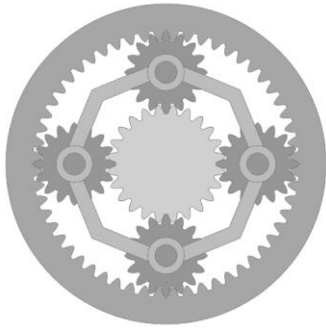


### Parents:

We encourage you to help your child decide on something in their life that they can give up during Lent. Be sure to give up something too. Being their example and companion on this journey makes a big difference!



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# ***LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS ALIGNMENT MEETING SATURDAY MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>***

**Please join us for an opportunity for:**

- **FORWARD THINKING**
- **FORWARD MOVING**
- **FORWARD ACTION**

This is the third meeting in a series of alignment meetings but for this meeting our invitation is for broader input and engagement. As we move from a period of crisis and recovery to a period of renewal and realignment our refocus will be on the ministries of LCC and the critical areas essential to our church parish life. All these areas provide a filter through which all the activities of Lutheran Church of the Cross can be sifted:

- Worship
- Outreach & Evangelism
- Serving
- Christian Education
- Fellowship
- Property & Campus Use
- Stewardship

Our church & parish life is where we live as a community of faith, of hope, and of action. This is where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed, and all others are invited to share the Good News. Through the Gospel values and messages call us to discern how we all have been called to share our time, our talents and our treasures. Parish life calls us to make connections and live as we are called and commanded to do. Parish life is not a physical building, or an area defined by geographical boundaries but rather a ministry that is focused on building community inside and outside.

This gathering will be addressing:

- How to move forward
- How to create a new environment of doers
- Assuring sustainability
- Developing leadership
- Establishing ownership & accountability

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX TO JOIN US ON  
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025    9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE**



"IF IT BEARS  
FRUIT NEXT  
YEAR, FINE!  
IF NOT,  
THEN CUT  
IT DOWN."

**LUKE 13:9, NIV**