

✠ The Third Sunday in Lent ✠  
March 23, 2025

**Hymn of Invocation:** “*’As Surely as I Live, ’ God Said*”

*LSB 614*

- 1 “As surely as I live,” God said,  
“I would not see the sinner dead.  
I want him turned from error’s ways,  
Repentant, living endless days.”
- 2 And so our Lord gave this command:  
“Go forth and preach in ev’ry land;  
Bestow on all My pard’ning grace  
Who will repent and mend their ways.
- 3 “All those whose sins you thus remit  
I truly pardon and acquit,  
And those whose sins you will retain  
Condemned and guilty shall remain.
- 4 “What you will bind, that bound shall be;  
What you will loose, that shall be free;  
To My dear Church the keys are giv’n  
To open, close the gates of heav’n.”
- 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!

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their  
Baptism.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*LSB 203*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 203*

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

## Absolution

*LSB 203*

**P** 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  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

*Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6*



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 204*

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;

**Lord, have mercy.**

## 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 prophet serves as a watchman for the house of Israel.)*

<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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Hebrews 12:2*



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- |  
ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

*(God provides the way of escape to help us  
endure our trials and temptations.)*

<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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Verse**

*2 Peter 3:9b, c*



**[The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should |  
perish,**

**but that all should reach re- | pentance.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 13:1–9*

*(Unless you repent, you also will perish.)*

**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.

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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.**

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day: “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”**

*LSB 704*

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,  
And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace  
That issues from Your holy face.
- 2 Remove the pow’r of sin from me  
And cleanse all my impurity  
That I may have the strength and will  
Temptations of the flesh to still.
- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire,  
And with new life my soul inspire.



4 Grant that I only You may love  
And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold You face to face,  
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

**Sermon:** **Luke 13:1-9**  
**“Digging Around the Roots: God's Grace in a Fallen World”**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Preface**

*LSB 208*

**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.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** With hearts emboldened by Your mercy, we come, O Lord, to give You thanks and praise for all Your kindness toward us sinners, who deserved only Your wrath. We rejoice that You delivered up Your own Son to the cross and have forgiven us all our sins by His one, all-sufficient suffering and death. As He is risen from the dead, raise us up from sin and its death to praise Your goodness and worship You with all our hearts, minds, and strength. Recalling the saints of old who have gone before us, we join with their voices and the whole heavenly host, evermore praising You and singing:

**Sanctus**

*LSB 208*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your  
name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** Once we were no people, O Lord, but now we are Your people in Christ, our Savior. By His own self-offering, He paid our debt of sin and released us from the curse of death. Rejoicing in all that He has accomplished on our behalf, we call upon You to grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may keep in holy hearts and show forth in holy lives our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Prepare us by Your grace to receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood, that no sin may prevent us from receiving to our salvation this most precious Communion. Hear us for the sake of Your Son.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## **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.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

**P** 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**

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

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 210*

**C** 1 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

2 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

**Distribution Hymn: “Your Table I Approach”**

*LSB 628*

1 Your table I approach;  
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart  
Prove hurtful to me there.

2 Lord, I confess my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;

- A contrite heart is sure to find  
    Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,  
    Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord,  
    In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,  
    This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more  
    Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
    That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
    Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail  
    To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
    O God, my peace and light.

**Distribution Hymn:** *“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”*

*LSB 722*

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me  
    Upon life’s way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me  
    From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor  
    I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior,  
    And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,  
    I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages,  
    Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding,  
    I fear no foe,

For when Your hand is guiding,  
In peace I go.

- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me,  
O blessèd Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me  
Unto the end.

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 211*

**☐ 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**☐** *Let us pray...* Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith

throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 212*

**A** 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 ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn to Depart: “*Jesus, Lead Thou On*”

*LSB 718*

- 1 Jesus, lead Thou on  
Till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless,  
We will follow calm and fearless.  
Guide us by Thy hand  
To our fatherland.
- 2 If the way be drear,  
If the foe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us;  
For through many\_a woe  
To our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief  
From a long-felt grief,  
When temptations come alluring,  
Make us patient and enduring.

Show us that bright shore  
Where we weep no more.

- 4 Jesus, lead Thou on  
Till our rest is won.  
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,  
Still support, console, protect us,  
Till we safely stand  
In our fatherland.

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