

Closed Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.

Visitors

We welcome you. Please sign the guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor. Also complete a blue attendance card located in the pews and put an X in the () if you will be communing with us. We invite you to join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym.

The Season of Lent

The word “Lent” comes from the Old English lencten, which means “Spring” (lencten – related to the word “lengthen,” because in Spring, the days get longer). Lent is the forty-day season before Easter (the Sundays of Lent are not counted as they are high-days). The number forty in the Bible is symbolic of worldly trial and suffering (think 40 days of rain during the Flood; Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness; Jesus’ 40 days of fasting). During Lent we Christians feel starved by our sin, the attacks of the devil, and the oppression of the world, making us hunger for Christ and His salvation. Fasting, almsgiving, and heightened devotion to God’s Word (think midweek services) are hallmarks of Lenten piety. The color for Lent is purple, the color of repentance. The idea is: if black symbolizes death, then purple (the nearest color to black on the color spectrum) symbolizes sin, because sin leads to death.

Gloria in Excelsis

Sometimes called “the Greater Gloria” (the Gloria Patri being the “lesser”). Gloria in excelsis is Latin for “glory in the highest.” The Gloria in Excelsis is one of the oldest morning hymns of the Church – a hymn of adoration, celebrating God’s glory as manifested in the merciful gift of His Son, Jesus. The opening words, of course, were sung by the angels at the birth of Christ (Luke 2:14). It’s place in the service is fitting: just as the angels celebrated the coming of Jesus at His birth, so we celebrate Jesus’ coming to us in Word and Sacrament. The Gloria is omitted during Advent to magnify the song’s meaning at Christmas, and it is omitted during Lent (along with other words and songs of praise) to heighten our praises at Easter.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

OCULI

Thursday, March 20, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 23, 2025 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM

✠ In Nomine Iesu ✠

Opening Hymn

Divine Service Setting Three

The Introit

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary LSB 423

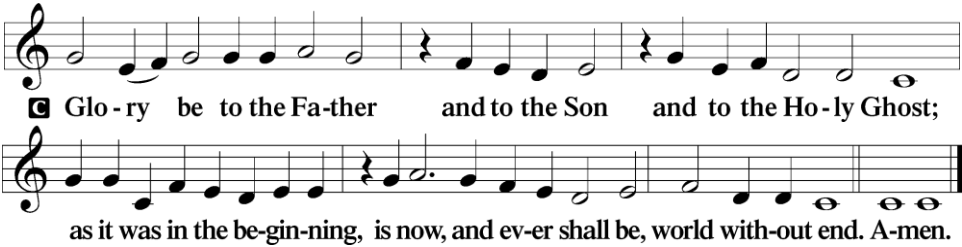
LSB 184

Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15-16

The congregation chants the verses in **bold** print.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.
The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*,
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.
Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.
Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*,
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Kyrie LSB 186

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 189

The Old Testament Reading *Exodus 8:16-24*

¹⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

²⁰Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.”’” ²⁴And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading *Ephesians 5:1-9*

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract *Psalm 123:1–3a*

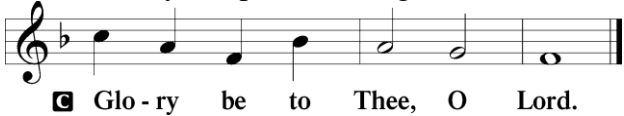
Please stand. The congregation chants the verses in **bold** print.

During the Pre-Lent and Lenten seasons, we omit the Alleluia and pray the Tract

To you I lift | up my eyes, *
O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!
Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | master,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy up- | on us.
Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,
have mercy up- | on us. *

The Holy Gospel *Luke 11:14-28*

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




¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed	LSB 191
Hymn of the Day	<i>Lord of Our Life</i> LSB 659
The Sermon	<i>Jesus Stands With You</i>
The Offertory	LSB 192
Prayer of the Church	LSB 193
Liturgy of Holy Communion	LSB 194
Distribution Hymns	LSB 718, 615, 642, 636, 451
Nunc Dimittis	LSB 199
Salutation and Benedicamus	LSB 201
Benediction	LSB 202
Closing Hymn	<i>Savior, When in Dust to Thee</i> LSB 419

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

Wednesday Lenten Midweek Vespers & Holy Week Services

March 5 Ash Wednesday	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
March 12 (meal at 5pm)	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
March 19 (no meal)	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
March 26 (meal at 5pm)	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
April 2 (meal at 5pm)	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
April 9 (meal at 5pm)	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
April 13 Palm Sunday	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
April 17 Maundy Thursday	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
April 18 Good Friday Tre Ore	1:00 p.m.
Good Friday Tenebrae	6:30 p.m.
April 19 Easter Vigil at Mt. Zion	8:00 p.m.
April 20 The Resurrection of Our Lord	8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Wednesday	3/12	4:00 p.m.	155
		6:30 p.m.	20
Thursday	3/13	6:30 p.m.	26
Sunday	3/16	8:00 a.m.	70
		10:45 a.m.	26

WE PRAY for Mary Ankerberg, Michael Borchardt, Tom Domagalski, Daut Gaba, Jacob Henke, Paul Howe, William Moore (husband of Barbara Moore), Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Jan Wicks, and Barbara Wieting.

FLOWERS are given by Todd Pfander in memory of Clarence Laube.

BULLETINS are given by Kathy and Dennis Hanley in celebration of their anniversary.

OFFICE OF THE HOLY MINISTRY In John 20, the Lord Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." In the giving of the Holy Spirit to his disciples in Acts 2, Christ has established the office of pastor for His bride, the Church: to forgive sins in Christ's stead, to preach the Lord's crucifixion, and to distribute the sacraments.

OFLC PASTORAL CALL At the voters’ meeting on March 2, the congregation voted to extend a divine call to Rev. Brennick Christiansen to be our next pastor. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he considers this decision.

PASTOR CHRISTIANSEN CALL TO IDAHO Pastor Christiansen has returned the divine call to serve as pastor/headmaster at Hope Lutheran in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

PASTOR CHRISTIANSEN CALL TO MISSOURI Pastor Christiansen received a divine call to serve as associate pastor and teaching principal at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Leslie, Missouri, with the primary purpose of starting Christ the King Lutheran High School for an association of churches. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he considers and discerns.

FESTIVAL CHOIR rehearsals continue every Wednesday at 5:20 p.m. (between the Lenten Midweek services) in the church balcony. All are welcome to join - no previous choir experience is necessary. Questions - ask Stephen Johnson (sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org).

LENTEN SUPPERS Below are the dates and sponsors for the remaining Lenten suppers:

March 26: Altar Guild – Sloppy Joes
April 2: Fellowship Committee – Potluck
April 9: Sunday School

POTLUCK LENTEN MEAL The Fellowship Committee is coordinating the Potluck Lenten meal on April 2. We would ask you to sign up in the narthex what you will bring, # in your family, and if you would be so kind as to help setup at 3:00 or help cleanup at 5:30. “Many hands make light work!” Questions to LeAnn Lagerman at 414-333-7994.

SPAGHETTI DINNER The Class of 2025 is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 5, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to raise funds for their class trip. Please see the flyer in the narthex for further details. We hope you and your family and friends can attend this event! The Class of 2025 thanks YOU in advance!
Yese, Adija, Regina, Wyatt, Paizleigh, Izabella, Feza, Keith, Taylor (and Mr. Janetzke!)

RE-ENROLLMENT is now open for all returning students in any of the School Choice programs (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or Racine) for the 2025-26 school year. The next deadline for the Milwaukee and Racine programs enrollment is ***April 17***. The Wisconsin program deadline is ***April 17***. Our Father's Enrollment is also now open. Please share this information with any school aged families who are looking for a Lutheran School to attend. Contact Mr. Cahill or Mrs. Wang at 414-282-7500 with any questions.

THRIVENT MEMBERS This is a reminder to all church and school families who have Thrivent Financial Contracts. Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2024 must be directed by March 31, 2025. You need to log into your Thrivent account information to do this. You have many choices where your Choice Dollars can be given; but just as a reminder, you can designate these dollars to be given to Our Father’s Lutheran Church or Our Father’s Lutheran School. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hojnacki at (414) 427-5949.

BOILER PROJECT MATCH OPPORTUNITY Our current income for this project is \$70,235.88 including the first match gift. The total cost for the project is \$122,000. If you would like to contribute, please put it in a separate envelope, mark it “Boiler Project,” and either place in offering basket or bring to the church office. We have received an additional match gift of \$30,000. More information will be coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE! Our Father’s and Mt. Zion will be hosting a joint Vacation Bible School here at Our Father’s JUNE 23-27 from 9-11:30 a.m. All children ages 3 through 4th grade are encouraged to attend. We will also be looking for 5-12th grade student volunteers. REGISTRATION will begin in April. If you are interested in volunteering (student or adult) or teaching one of the classes (adult) please reach out to Hannah Wieting (hwieting@ourfatherslutheran.org) or Christina Janetzke (cwingy10@yahoo.com). Please add the dates to your calendars, we look forward to a wonderful week!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	3/23	DIVINE SERVICES Adult Bible Class and Sunday School	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday	3/25	Handbell Rehearsal	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	3/26	Morning Bible Study LENTEN VESPERS Light Meal Festival Choir Rehearsal (in church balcony)	9:30 a.m. 4:00 & 6:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:20 p.m.
Thursday	3/27	DIVINE SERVICE	6:30 p.m.
Sunday	3/30	DIVINE SERVICE Adult Bible Class and Sunday School	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
OCULI**

“Jesus Stands With You”
March 23 through March 29, 2025

Oculi is the word for eyes, as in the Introit we confess, “My eyes are ever toward the Lord.” During Lent and throughout our lives, our eyes are ever to be on the cross and the One who gazes down compassionately from that cross to rescue us from every evil of body and soul. How are our eyes to be fixed upon Christ? Our eyes are often like those of Eve as we look around at temptations and see that it is pleasing to the eye and probably of no harm. Our eyes only see when they are opened and governed by the Word of God. Only when faith is fed by the Word of God do we have eyes that bring light to our entire body. The Word focuses our sight upon Christ crucified, for apart from Him there is no salvation. Our eyes are not to look to our works, our actions, or our behavior to find hope or assurance of our salvation. Such hope and salvation are always in the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in baptism, confession, the preaching of the Gospel, and the Holy Supper. As faith seeks out these gifts, our eyes are ever toward the Lord.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

THE CREED

VERSE: ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **John 17:17**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: 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.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 71

PSALMODY PRAYER: O God, my Rock and my Fortress, deliver me out of the hands of wicked and cruel men. You took me from my mother’s womb and taught me the ways of Truth and Wisdom. Open my mouth to confess Your righteousness all day long.
AMEN.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Luke 6:27-38
Tuesday	Luke 6:39-49
Wednesday	Luke 7:1-10
Thursday	Luke 19:29-48
Friday	Luke 22:1-13
Saturday	John 6:1-15

CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties

What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. *1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. *Hebrews 13:17*

Luther, Large Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar (1528): Here, gracious and lovely, stand the words, “This is My body, given FOR YOU,” “This is My blood, shed FOR YOU for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, as I have said, are not addressed to wood or stone, but to me and to you; otherwise, Christ might just as well have remained silent and instituted no sacrament. Therefore, think yourself into, place yourself personally into this “you,” in order that Christ may not speak to you in vain. In the Lord’s Supper, He offers to every one of us the treasure He brought from heaven, a treasure to which He invites us most winsomely also in other passages, as when He says in Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” How truly and tenderly He summons and encourages us for our own highest and greatest good. Therefore, it is surely a sin and a shame that we take such a reluctant attitude toward the Sacrament, neglecting it for such long periods that we become quite cold and hard and lose our delight in it and our love for it. Never regard the Sacrament as something harmful from which to flee, but rather as purely wholesome and soothing therapy that is helpful and life-giving both for the soul and for the body. For if the soul is healed, the body is helped as well. How, then, is it that we act as if the Sacrament were a poison and eating it would kill us?

It is true, of course, that those who despise it and live unchristian lives receive it to their harm and condemnation. Nothing can be good or wholesome for such people, just as when a sick person willfully eats and drinks what the doctor has forbidden. But those who feel their weakness, really want to be rid of it, and desire a remedy, should regard and use the Sacrament as a priceless antidote against the poison that they carry in them. For here in the Sacrament, you receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sins, and His forgiveness contains and brings with it God’s grace, God’s Spirit, all the gifts of the Spirit, and His protection shielding and sheltering you against death, the devil, and all evil. (CPH, 1978, pp. 118-119)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER: 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.**

OR

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER: 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.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: *LSB 708 “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”* (stanza 3)

3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr’ham’s bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

March 30, 2025
 “Jesus Gathers the Leftover Fragments”

READINGS

Jesus crosses the Sea with a great crowd of people following Him, just as once they had followed Moses through the Red Sea. Through Moses, God had instituted the Passover feast to mark their deliverance from Egypt; now Jesus gives them food in the wilderness as Moses had long before. Notice the language of Jesus taking the bread, giving thanks, and distributing the loaves is almost identical to the words of the Lord's Supper. This miracle was given as a sign to point us to Jesus—both His work at the cross and His gift in the Supper. This feeding was a sign intended to point us to the realities and benefits of the Supper, but it was not the Supper. The Lord's Supper is the Bread of Life, which is Jesus Himself. One should never try to divide Jesus from His Supper because He says in His Word that it is His body and blood. Faith always trusts in the Word of God. It was the Word of God that fed all 5,000 with bread and fish, and that same Word now feeds us on the Bread of Life. In the Supper, we receive the flesh and blood of Christ which gives life to the sinful world. His flesh and blood was offered up in death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, and distributed to the world through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Lord's Supper, that we might receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation for our very own. Jesus' preaching and His body and blood are not to be separated. The one creates faith and leads to the faithful reception of the other.

www.ofls.org

Stephen Johnson
Ben Culli
Organists

March 23, 2025



About the Cover: Ancient Israel repeatedly grumbled in the wilderness. Nevertheless, the Lord rescued the Israelites through the Red Sea and continued to provide for them as He led them to the Promised Land. In our epistle, Paul tells us that these events serve as examples for us to hold fast to our merciful Lord, who does not abandon us. There is no temptation so great that our Lord cannot overcome it. He provides the way out because He has already won the victory by His cross.