

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

REMINISCERE

Thursday, March 13, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 16, 2025 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

Opening Hymn *Entrust Your Days and Burdens* LSB 754

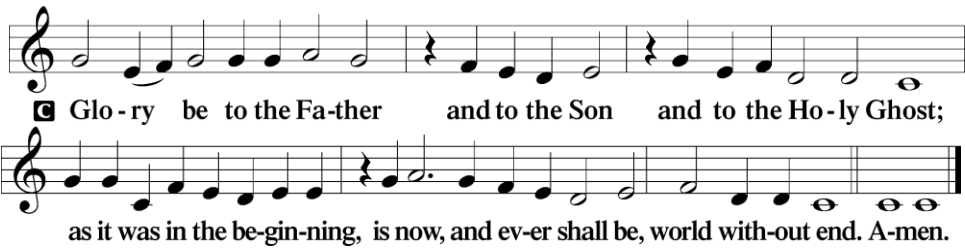
Divine Service Setting Three LSB 184

The Introit *Psalm 25:1-2a, 7-8, 11; antiphon: vv. 6, 2b, 22*

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

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your | steadfast love,\*  
for they have been | from of old.  
Let not my enemies exult | over me.\*  
**Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his | troubles.**

To you, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.\*  
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.  
**Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;\***  
**according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your**  
**goodness, | O Lord!**  
Good and upright | is the Lord;\*  
therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.  
**For your name’s sake, | O Lord,\***  
**pardon my guilt, for | it is great.**



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.

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your | steadfast love,\*  
for they have been | from of old.  
Let not my enemies exult | over me.\*  
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his | troubles.

<sup>22</sup>The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” <sup>28</sup>Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. <sup>32</sup>Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip on the sinew of the thigh.

- ☐ This is the Word of the Lord.
- ☒ Thanks be to God.

<sup>1</sup>Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

- ☐ This is the Word of the Lord.
- ☒ Thanks be to God.

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

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good,\*  
for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!  
**Who can utter the mighty deeds | of the LORD,\***  
**or declare | all His praise?**  
Blessèd are they who observe | justice,\*  
who do righteousness | at all times!  
**Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to Your | people;\***  
**help me when You | save them.**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

☒ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☒ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

972 I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone

1 I trust, O Christ, in You a-lone; No earth-ly hope a-  
2 My sin and guilt are plagu-ing me; O grant me true con-  
3 Con-firm in us Your Gos-pel, Lord, Your prom-ise of sal-  
vails me. You will not see me o-ver-thrown  
tri-tion And by Your death up-on the tree  
va-tion. And make us long to hear Your Word  
When Sa-tan's host as-sails me. No hu-man strength, no  
Your par-don and re-mis-sion. Be-fore the Fa-ther's  
And fol-low our vo-ca-tion: To spend our lives in  
earth-ly pow'r Can see me through the e-vil hour,  
throne a-bove Re-call Your match-less deed of love  
love for You And show Your love in all we do.  
For You a-lone my strength re-new. I cry to You!  
That He may lift my dread-ful load, O Son of God!  
And then, at last, when death shall loom, O Sav-ior, come  
I trust, O Lord, Your prom-ise true.  
I plead the grace Your death be-stowed.  
And bear Your loved ones safe-ly home.

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The Sermon

Crumbs From the Master's Table

The Offertory LSB 192

Prayer of the Church LSB 193

Liturgy of Holy Communion LSB 194

Distribution Hymns LSB 544 571, 643, 624, 623

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

Salutation and Benedicamus LSB 201

Benediction LSB 202

Closing Hymn O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace LSB 693

✠ 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.

A light supper will be served between the services indicated above  
in the gym. There will not be a meal served on March 19.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>
Ash Wednesday	3/5	4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	69 30
Thursday	3/6	6:30 p.m.	27
Sunday	3/9	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	73 42

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

**FLOWERS** are given by the Baumbach family in memory of their mother, Grace Baumbach.

**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 received a divine call to serve as pastor and headmaster at Hope Lutheran Church & School in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he considers and discerns.

**SCHOOL/CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** The *school office* will be closed during Spring Break beginning Monday, March 17 through Friday, March 21. The *church office* will have limited hours this week. In the event of an emergency, please contact Pastor Christiansen at 262-236-6104.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** There will be no Sunday School on March 16 due to school spring break. Sunday school will resume on March 23.

**EASTER PLANTS** We have six varieties to offer this Easter with our new vendor (more choices this year!!). All plants are 6 to 6-1/2”. Order forms can be found in the Narthex and are due today, **Sunday, March 16**. A small portion of the proceeds from the sale benefit the ongoing work of our Altar Guild. Please support this and also beautify our Altar area. Any questions, contact Linda Hojnacki at (414) 427-5949.

**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](mailto:sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org)).

**TROJAN HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK** We've completed Quarter 3 of our school year. Time certainly has flown by! We look forward to Spring Break the week of March 17-21. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

**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

There will be a sign-up sheet for the Potluck meal. Look for it soon in the Narthex.

**MEMORIAL GIFT** The new purple banners hanging on the wall of the sanctuary were purchased with the remainder of the Lois Kennedy memorial funds. We thank the family for this beautiful gift to the church in her name.

**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 deadline for the Milwaukee and Racine programs enrollment is **March 20**. 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 \$68,617.15, including the match. 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](mailto:hwieting@ourfatherslutheran.org)) or Christina Janetzke ([cwingy10@yahoo.com](mailto:cwingy10@yahoo.com)). Please add the dates to your calendars, we look forward to a wonderful week!

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sunday	3/16	<b>DIVINE SERVICES</b> Adult Bible Class <b>NO</b> Sunday School Easter Flower Order Forms Due	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:45 a.m.</b> 9:30 a.m.
Monday Friday	3/17 - 3/21	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK	
Wednesday	3/19	No Morning Bible Study <b>LENTEN VESPERS</b> No Light Meal Festival Choir Rehearsal (in church balcony)	9:30 a.m. <b>4:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b> 5:20 p.m.
Thursday	3/20	<b>DIVINE SERVICE</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
Sunday	3/23	<b>DIVINE SERVICE</b> Adult Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:45 a.m.</b> 9:30 a.m.

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER  
FOR THE WEEK OF  
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
REMINISCERE**

*“Crumbs From The Master’s Table”*  
March 16 through March 22, 2025

*Reminiscere, remember, is the cry of our introit this week. The life of faith is a constant calling out to God in prayer that He would remember all His promises to us and remember us for the sake of His Son. It is not that God ever forgets us, for He cannot forget those for whom His Son poured out His blood at the cross. We are the ones who forget God and need to be prodded by the cross to believe the promises once again. Only faith can confidently cry out to God to remember us in the depths of our sin and suffering. This is not a God far off, but a God who sent His Son to experience the full sufferings of this sinful life, even unto death itself. When we call for Him to remember, we do not proclaim our worthiness. Instead, we appeal to His undeserved love and kindness. These are the true qualities of God which are only known by faith. The experiences of this life will often seem to portray a God who cares little and has no mercy, as it was for the Canaanite woman at first. However, faith always sees the mercy of God as we gaze upon the suffering Son of God and appeal for even a few crumbs.*

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

**THE CREED**

**VERSE:** <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Isaiah 53:4-6**

**COLLECT FOR THE WEEK:** O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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: 5**

**PSALMODY PRAYER:** Lead me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and make me to walk in Your straight way. Cause me to enter in to Your great mercy that I may rejoice in Your protection. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Exodus 24
Tuesday	Exodus 25
Wednesday	Exodus 26
Thursday	Exodus 27
Friday	Exodus 28
Saturday	Luke 11:14-28

**CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Daily Prayers**  
HOW THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH HIS HOUSEHOLD TO PRAY MORNING AND EVENING.

**Morning Prayer**

*In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little 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.

*Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.*

**Evening Prayer**

*In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say:*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little 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.

*Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.*

HOW THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH HIS HOUSEHOLD TO ASK A BLESSING AND RETURN THANKS.

**Asking a Blessing**

*The children and members of the household shall go to the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:*

The eyes of all look to You, [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.  
**Psalm 145:15–16**

*Then shall be said the Lord’s Prayer and the following:*

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Returning Thanks**

*Also, after eating, they shall, in like manner, reverently and with folded hands say:*

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. **Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9–11**

*Then shall be said the Lord’s Prayer and the following:*

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

**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/EVENING PRAYER**



**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** *LSB 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted* (stanza 1 and 2)

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning,  
Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.

**Luther, Large Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar (1528):** You see, then, that we are not granted freedom to scorn the Sacrament. I call it scorning the Sacrament when a person, though there is nothing to hinder his attendance, lets a long time pass without ever desiring the Lord's Supper. If you want the liberty to do that, then you may as well take the further liberty of not being a Christian so that you need not believe or pray; for the one is just as much a commandment of Christ as the other. But if you want to be a Christian, then you must find times to satisfy and obey this commandment. We, however, force or compel no one, nor should anyone partake of the Lord's Supper just to serve or please us. But what should draw and even impel you to come is that Christ wishes it and that it will please Him. You should never again let yourself be forced by men into the faith or into any good work. All that we are doing is to urge you to do what you ought to do, not for our sake but for your own. Your Lord invites and encourages you; if you despise that, then you yourself must answer for it. The first point we are making, especially for the benefit of the cold and indifferent, is that they should come to their senses and wake up. It is certain, as I myself experienced and as everyone else will find to be true in his own case, that if a person stays away from the Lord's Supper day after day, he will become more and more callous and cold to it and finally reject it altogether. The alternative is to keep examining our hearts and consciences and to act like persons who would really like to be on right terms with God. The more we do this, the more our hearts will be warmed and kindled and will avoid freezing up completely. But suppose you say, "What if I feel unfit?" Nature and reason keep people from going to the Sacrament until they feel more prepared. But one week

becomes another, and one half-year leads to the next. If you insist on weighing how good and pure you are and if you wait until you feel no stings of conscience, you will never approach the Lord's Table. (CPH, 1978, pp. 116-117)

**LOOKING FORWARD TO  
THE WEEK OF  
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
OCULI**

March 23, 2025  
*"Jesus Stands with You"*

**HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 423, 659, 718, 615, 642, 636, 451, 419

**READINGS**

Exodus 8:16-24  
Ephesians 5:1-9  
Luke 11:14-28

*Ask and it will be given to you*, Jesus had said. In the verse before this text, He had told them He meant them to ask for the Holy Spirit. Yet Jesus is immediately accused of being the ruler of the evil spirits. Is this the Holy Spirit or the demonic at work? The story is reminiscent of the encounter between Moses and the magicians of Egypt. When Moses turns water to blood, they duplicate it with their magic. When he calls forth the plague of frogs, they again copy the plague. The third plague is gnats from the dust of the ground, and they cannot duplicate it. Then they must confess that the finger of God is at work. No longer can the spirits of darkness copy what is truly the work of God, for only the Creator can bring life from the dust of the ground. The demons always copy God, but they are not interested in destroying their own kind. They only desire to conquer those who have the Holy Spirit by deception. Only the life-giving Holy Spirit could free the mute from His bondage to the evil demons and the curse of sin. Jesus has come as the One who possesses the Holy Spirit. He is the stronger man who binds up the strong man, that is, the devil, in his own house, that is, this world. It is that Finger of God that has marked your forehead and your heart in the waters of Holy Baptism. It is that Finger which you recall each time you retrace that sign of the cross with which God's Finger has marked you as His own. It is that Finger which points you to Christ your Light and away from the disobedience of this world.

March 16, 2025



**About the Cover:** When it feels as though everything around us is crumbling, Jesus offers us the foundation we can stand firm on: Him! He has accomplished what we could not. His cross stands as a testament to His determination and love for us. By dying on the cross and rising again, Christ won for us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Therefore, in all trials and temptations, we can stand firm in Christ alone.

## **Our Father's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Childcare**

*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

[www.ofls.org](http://www.ofls.org)

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Vacancy Pastor

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Mr. Bob Cahill  
Principal

School (414) 282-7500

Mrs. Amanda McGraw  
Mrs. Michelle Sroka  
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