

# THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18th, 2024



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

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*Cover: “Abraham’s Sacrifice” by Rembrandt van Rijn, 1655.*

## THE COMMON SERVICE

*Stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



1. In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I cry to you my  
2. I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My heart's di - verse af -



Sav - ior! My guilt is more than I can bear. I have not earned your  
fec - tions. Why do I love the things you loath; I'm torn in two di -



fav - or. You know me as I real - ly am: How  
rec - tions: Now prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O



much is truth, how much is sham; Why should you head my plead - ing?  
God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who else but you can help\_ me?

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The congregation sings CWS 738, stanzas 3 and 4:*

3. I tremble as I feel your hand, Expecting retribution,  
Yet hear no curse or reprimand, But grace and absolution:  
With you there is forgiveness, Lord,  
You speak the sweet, consoling Word,  
And I am sure you love me!

4. Forgiven, free of guilt and shame, Grant me some time to render  
A gift to glorify your name, Love to reflect your splendor:  
This world must know what I have learned,  
That you bestow what none has earned:  
The joy of full forgiveness!

*Prayer of the Day*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us,  
and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us  
steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be seated.*

THE WORD

**First Lesson ----- Genesis 22:1-18**

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I am here."

God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct

you."

Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the

place in the distance.

Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?"

He said, "I am here, my son."

He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham said, "I am here."

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide." So it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

## **Anthem ----- Who Is Jesus?**

Adult Choir

Who is Jesus? Friend of sinners, whom in love the Father gave; born within  
a borrowed stable, laid within a borrowed grave, Son of God and son of  
Mary, Son of Man, to seek and save.

Who is Jesus! Man of sorrows! see his glory all put by; Prince of life and  
sinner's ransom stumbles forth to bleed and die; Lamb of God and Love  
immortal hangs upon the cross on high.

Who is Jesus? Risen Savior! to his Father's throne restored, firstborn of the new creation, sun and star and saints' reward; Prince of glory, King of ages, Christ the everliving Lord!

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## Second Lesson ----- Romans 8:31-39

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long.

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Verse of the Day*

*Matthew 4:10b*

*Tune: CW 111*



C: In the Scrip-tures is it writ-en, Carved in words up - on the stone:



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“Wor-ship on - ly Him in heav-en, Serve the Lord your God a-lone.”

*Stand.*

## Gospel ----- Mark 1:12-15

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. "The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel."

After John was put in prison, Jesus went to

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Hymn of the Day ----- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 200

1. A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.
2. With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.  
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.  
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,  
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;  
He holds the field forever.



3. *(Choir)* Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!  
One little word can fell him.
4. **The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.  
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—  
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;  
The kingdom's ours forever!**

**Sermon ----- Romans 8:31–39**

*With Him We Just Can't Lose*

*Stand.*

**Credal Hymn ----- We All Believe In One True God**

CW 271

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

*Prayer of the Church*

*The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “**Lord, have mercy.**”*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For faith to follow our Lord Jesus and resist temptation, that we would come through this fallen world to dwell with Him forever, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

*Online giving option:*

*[mluther.org/give](http://mluther.org/give)*



*Offerings support the spread  
of the Gospel here and around the world.*

- M: For the Church of God, guarded by the Lord who bore the wood of the cross, that her ministers and people may be certain that the gates of hell cannot prevail against us; and for boldness of faith, that we may trample every power of the enemy underfoot, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home, that God would preserve them from the assaults of the evil one and, as Christ overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, give them the victory through Him and His Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: To the Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift comes, that He would keep us from all sinful desires and misuse of His gifts; for His help to use them in service to our neighbor; and that He would bless President Joseph Biden and all leaders to govern wisely for the good of this and future generations, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For our brothers and sisters and all who suffer in our midst, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that God Most High, our refuge in every trouble, would command His angels to keep them from every evil of body, mind or soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For those who commune, that in the blessed Sacrament they would acknowledge the time fulfilled and the kingdom at hand in Christ Jesus, receiving His body and blood with repentance and faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, see how the adversary continually afflicts us and walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We implore You for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and to strengthen our hearts by Your Word, that our enemy would not prevail over us, but instead that we may abide evermore in Your grace and be preserved to life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer*

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



### *Words of Institution*

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



### *O Christ, Lamb of God*





*Be seated.*

#### DISTRIBUTION

*In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:*

#### Hymn ----- Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW 312

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared This feast for our salvation;  
It is your body and your blood, And at your invitation  
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to you for needed rest,  
For comfort, and for pardon.
2. Although you did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,  
And in your presence they behold Your glory, all excelling,  
And though your people shall not see Your glory and your majesty  
Till dawns the judgment morning,

3. Yet, Savior, you are not confined To any habitation,  
But you are present ev'rywhere And with your congregation.  
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand  
Or subtle craft and cunning.
4. We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your precious Word believing  
That your true body and your blood Our lips are here receiving.  
This Word remains forever true, And there is naught you cannot do,  
For you, Lord, are almighty.
5. Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:  
Your body, Lord, is ev'rywhere At once in many places.  
I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;  
I trust its truth unfailing.
6. Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me.  
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.  
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears  
And is my priceless treasure.
7. Grant that we worthily receive Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior  
That we are thankful for your grace And day by day may run our race,  
In holiness increasing.
8. For your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!  
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages.  
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me  
When living and when dying.

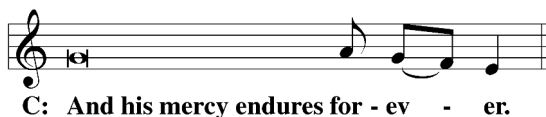
*After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:*

*Song of Simeon*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- Jesus, Refuge of the Weary**

CW 108

1. Jesus, Refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above,  
Oh, how oft your eyes, offended, Gaze upon a sinner's fall!  
Yet, upon the cross extended, You endured the pain of all.
2. Dare we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
As we see you wounded, bleeding, See your thorn-encircled brow?  
Since your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest,  
Only what your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.
3. Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for you!  
May our eyes be ever turning To behold your cross anew,  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified!

