

# QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

March 2nd, 2025



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO  
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## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Hymn ----- My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker**

CW 257

1. My soul, now bless your Maker! Let all within me bless his name  
Who makes me a partaker Of mercies more than I dare claim.  
Forget him not whose meekness Still bears with all your sin,  
Who heals your ev'ry weakness, Renews your life within,  
Whose grace and care are endless And saved you through the past,  
Who leaves no suff'rer friendless But rights the wronged at last.
2. For as a tender father Has pity on his children here,  
He in his arms will gather All who are his in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers Who but from dust are made.  
We flourish like the flowers, And even so we fade.  
The wind but through them passes, And all their bloom is o'er.  
We wither like the grasses; Our place knows us no more.
3. God's grace stands fast, enduring, And children's children yet shall prove  
His strength abides, assuring The hearts of all who seek his love.  
In heav'n is fixed his dwelling; His rule is over all.  
Angels, in might excelling, Bright hosts, before him fall.  
Praise him in song forever, All you who hear his Word.  
He hears our hymns with favor—My soul, oh, bless the Lord!

*Stand.*

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

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.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

*Lord, Have Mercy*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The Lord is our rock and our fortress. For his name's sake he leads us and guides us. (Ps 31:3)

### Hymn ----- On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CW 319

Children's Choir

On my heart imprint your image,  
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Have no pow'r to hide your face.  
This the superscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation.

## *Prayer of the Day*

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and, having set us free from the bonds of our sins, deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be seated.*

## THE WORD

### **First Lesson ----- Isaiah 42:5–9**

This is what the true God says,  
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches  
them out,  
who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.

I am the LORD.  
I have called you in righteousness.  
I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.  
I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,

to be a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of  
prison.

I am the LORD; that is my name.  
I will not give my glory to another,  
nor my praise to idols.  
Look, the former things have taken place,  
and I am declaring new things.  
I am making them known to you before they  
spring forth.

**Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 31**

CW p.77

*Refrain*

**Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;<sup>\*</sup>  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Be my rock of refuge,<sup>\*</sup>  
a strong fortress to save me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;<sup>\*</sup>  
redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

*Refrain*

My times are in your hands;<sup>\*</sup>  
save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your goodness,<sup>\*</sup>  
which you have stored up for those who fear you.

You heard my cry for mercy;<sup>\*</sup>  
when I called to you for help.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son<sup>\*</sup>  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,<sup>\*</sup>  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## Second Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things. Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known.

So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

### *Verse of the Day*

### *Lamentations 3:22*

M: By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



*Stand.*

## Gospel ----- Luke 18:31–43

He took the Twelve aside and said to them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. Indeed, he will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, mistreat him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him. On the third day, he will rise again.”

They did not understand any of these things. What he said was hidden from them, and they did not understand what was said.

As he approached Jericho, a blind man sat by the road, begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by. He called

out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Those who were at the front of the crowd rebuked him, telling him to be quiet. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see again.”

Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.”

Immediately he received his sight and began following Jesus, glorifying God. All the people, when they saw this, gave praise to God.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Be seated.*



**Hymn of the Day ----- Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

CW 353

1. Praise the one who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the one who preached the gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands With the Father's word of peace.
2. Praise the one who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the one who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;  
From this well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the one who makes us one.

**Sermon ----- Luke 18:31-43**

*Jesus Opens Our Eyes to Know His Mercy*

*Stand.*

*Nicene Creed*

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He

suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

*Prayer of the Church*

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “**hear our prayer.**”*

Online giving option:  
[mluther.org/offerings](http://mluther.org/offerings)



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

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: O Lover of the human race, have compassion on Your baptized children. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that our lives would reflect the unfailing love we have in Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty and most merciful God, You urge Your Church to be strong and fear not. Inspire us to trust Your just judgment and expect the renewal of this world. Strengthen our hands and knees to pray without ceasing and to perform the works You have prepared for us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

- M: Heavenly Father, grant grace to Your people in their many and various vocations. Give them patience, and strengthen them in their Christian witness to the world and in service to their neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: O Lord, You see in secret. You chose David, least among his brothers, to rule in Your kingdom. Put down the proud and exult the humble to rule in our land, that we also may receive leaders who rule with integrity and humility after Your own heart. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Great Physician, You promise eternal healing for all who look to You in faith. Until that day when all struggles are relieved, bestow health and support on Your people [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Strengthen us to live our days in peace according to Your holy and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You gather us to this altar to receive His sacrificial banquet, where the humble are exalted and no arrogant heart is welcome. Forgive our sins for His sake, and bestow upon us who seek no worldly satisfaction this humble yet royal gift. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Lord God, heavenly Father, what You foretold through the holy prophets has been fulfilled and accomplished in the suffering, death and resurrection of Your Son. You have set forth His Passion and resurrection as the firm foundation and content for our faith. Have mercy on us, and fix our eyes on the Son of David at all times. Give us courage to follow Him through all adversity and every assault of the devil and to view His Passion with repentant hearts and delight, for by it You have redeemed us from all sin and evil. Comfort us with the certainty of Christ's resurrection, by which we have the confidence of eternal life; 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 to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Sanctus*



*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.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



*O Christ, Lamb of God*

*Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*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 hymns:*

### **Hymn ----- Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old**

CW 520

1. Your hand, O Lord, in days of old Was strong to heal and save;  
It triumphed o'er disease and death, All darkness and the grave.  
To you they came, the blind, the dumb, The paralyzed and lame,  
The lepers in their misery, The sick with fevered frame.
2. Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
Gave speech and strength and sight;  
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed Revealed you, Lord of light.  
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, Almighty as before,  
In crowded street, by beds of pain, As by Gennes' ret's shore.
3. Oh, be our great deliv'rer still, The Lord of life and death;  
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, With your life-giving breath.  
To hands that work and eyes that see Give wisdom's healing pow'r  
That whole and sick and weak and strong May praise you evermore.

### **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.



# THANKSGIVING

*Stand.*

*Thank the Lord*



**C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

### *Blessing*

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



### *Be seated.*

#### FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

### *Alleluia, Song of Triumph*

(Tune: CW 122)

C: Alleluia, song of triumph, sound of joy that cannot die;  
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;  
Saints adorned in robes of glory join the great angelic cry.

Alleluia we are singing, voicing hymns in pure accord,  
With Christ's holy Church united, justified, redeemed, restored,  
And with all his faithful people raise our songs to praise the Lord.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;  
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego.  
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

May our hymns be filled with longing—hear us, Holy Trinity—  
As we look to your blest Easter, here, and then eternally,  
When we shall once more be singing alleluia joyfully!

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