

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9th, 2025



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO

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*Cover: “The Temptation of Christ by the Devil” – woodcut by Christoffel Jegher after Peter Paul  
Rubens. 1633.*

## THE COMMON SERVICE

*Stand.*

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



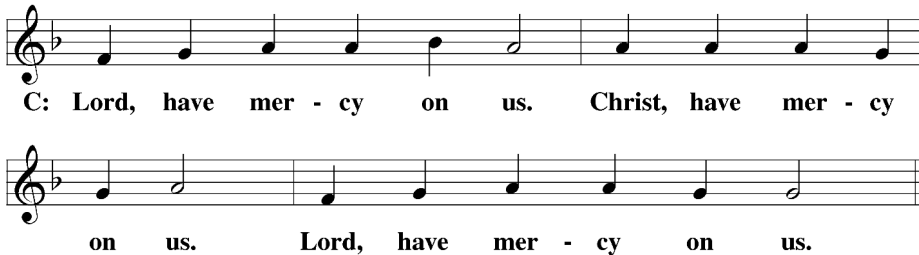
### CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Kyrie*



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.

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*

*ELH stz. 1-2 (CW 100)*

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
The guilt of all men bearing;  
And laden with the sins of earth,  
None else the burden sharing!  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer;  
Bears shame and stripes, and wounds and death,  
Anguish and mockery, and saith,  
“Willing all this I suffer.”
  
- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great Friend,  
The Lamb of God, our Savior;  
Him God the Father chose to send  
To gain for us His favor.  
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father saith,  
“And free men from the fear of death,  
From guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Thy Passion men shall share  
The fruit of Thy salvation.”

*Prayer of the Day*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of your church that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 ----- Genesis 3:1–19**

Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’ ”

The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you

will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his

wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than all the livestock,  
and more than every wild animal.  
You shall crawl on your belly,  
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.  
I will put hostility between you and the  
woman,  
and between your seed and her seed.  
He will crush your head,

and you will crush his heel.

To the woman he said:

I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing.

With painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,  
but he will rule over you.

To Adam he said:

Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you,

"You shall not eat from it,"

the soil is cursed on account of you.

You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of your life.

Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground for you,

but you will eat the crops of the field.

By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the soil,

for out of it you were taken.

For you are dust,

and to dust you shall return.

**Anthem ----- O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

Choir

O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven's praise.

**Second Lesson ----- 2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

We are giving no one a reason to stumble in any way, so that our ministry will not be blamed. Rather, in every way we show ourselves to be God's ministers: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in difficulties, in beatings, in imprison-

ments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in times of hunger; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left; through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; treated as deceivers yet being honest, treated as unknown and yet being well known; as dying, and yet look—we live; as punished yet not put to death; as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

*Verse of the Day*

*Matthew 4:10*

M: It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Matthew 4:1-11**

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



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The Tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread."

But Jesus answered, "It is written:

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes out of the  
mouth of God."

Then the Devil took him into the holy city. He placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and he said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will command his angels concerning  
you.  
And they will lift you up in their hands,

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



***Be seated.***

so that you will not strike your foot  
against a stone."

Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written:

You shall not test the Lord your God."

Again the Devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said to him, "I will give you all of these things, if you will bow down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written:

Worship the Lord your God, and serve  
him only."

Then the Devil left him, and just then angels came and served him.



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. 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 ----- Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus Overcomes Satan by the Power of God's Word*

*Stand.*

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

CW 271

1. We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,  
The Father, who to us in love Has the right of children given.  
He in soul and body feeds us; All we need his hand provides us.  
He through snares and perils leads us, Watching that no harm betides us.  
He cares for us by day and night; All things are governed by his might.
2. We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing  
An equal Godhead, throne and might, Source of ev'ry grace and blessing,  
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,  
Made true man, our elder brother, That the lost might life inherit,  
Was crucified by sinful men And raised by God to life again.
3. We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who, sweet hope and comfort giving,  
Now with the Father and the Son In eternal light is living,  
Who the Church, his own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit;  
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.  
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally.

*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 hearts eager to pray as God's children, through the mediation of Christ Himself, that we would receive every mercy and find grace to help in time of need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

- M: That God would protect His Church by His Holy Word and embolden her witness in the world, opposing the evil one with the weapons of His righteousness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the families of the Church, that we may live in sacrificial love toward one another and in faith toward God, and so receive His temporal and eternal benediction, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For peace, that as we sojourn in the wilderness of this earth, God would by His might defend us and our nation against all enemies, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the needy, the sick and the troubled, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that God would send His holy angels to protect and keep us in His ways so that no evil may befall us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all who commune, that God, who once covered the sin of our first parents with animal skin, foreshadowing Christ's perfect sacrifice by which we are cleansed and clothed, would give us the garments of repentance and faith to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For a spirit of prayer and holy discipline, that after the example of our Savior we may trample the tempter underfoot daily, 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, help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and 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*

*Sanctus*



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 -



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

*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*

*Agnus Dei*

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 ----- Christ, the Life of All the Living**

CW 114

- Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe,  
Who, thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe—  
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

2. Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
3. Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
4. Heartless scoffers did surround thee, Treating thee with cruel scorn,  
And with piercing thorns they crowned thee.  
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne  
That as thine thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
5. Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did thy foes accuse thee—Thence I gain security.  
Comfortless thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
6. Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me.  
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
7. Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore,  
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, For thy bleeding and thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.



Hymn ----- Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains

CW 102

1. Enslaved by sin and bound in chains, Beneath its dreadful tyrant sway,  
And doomed to everlasting pains We wretched, guilty captives lay.
2. Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace,  
Nor all the world's collected store  
Suffice to purchase our release; A thousand worlds were all too poor.
3. Jesus, the Lord, the mighty God, An all-sufficient ransom paid.  
O matchless price! His precious blood For vile, rebellious traitors shed.
4. Jesus the sacrifice became To rescue guilty souls from hell;  
The spotless, bleeding, dying Lamb Beneath avenging justice fell.
5. Amazing goodness! Love divine! Oh, may our grateful hearts adore  
The matchless grace nor yield to sin Nor wear its cruel fetters more!

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

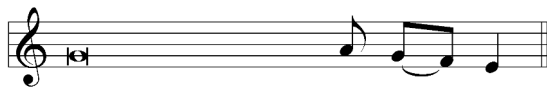
*Song of Simeon*

*Nunc Dimittis*



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 ----- Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle**

CW 122

1. Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.  
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay.  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, As a victim won the day.

2. Tell how, when at length the fullness Of th' appointed time was come,  
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us his Father's home,  
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.
3. Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,  
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did his work and met his death;  
Like a lamb he humbly yielded On the cross his dying breath.
4. Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;  
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit your equal be,  
Symbol of the world's redemption, For your burden makes us free.
5. Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,  
To th' eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done—  
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

