

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30th, 2025



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

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*Cover: “Miracle of the Five Loaves” by Adriaen Collaert (1560-1618)
after Martin de Vos (1532-1603)*

THE COMMON SERVICE

Stand.

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



C: A - men.

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



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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. 7-8 (CW 100)

7. Enlarge, O thou, my heart, thy shrine,
To hold this treasure given;
Far greater treasure here is thine
Than earth and sea and heaven.
Away, gold of Arabia,
Away, myrrh, aloes, cassia!
I've found a better portion,
My greater treasure, Jesus Christ,
Is this which from Thy wounds most blest
Flowed forth for my salvation.
8. This treasure ever I'll employ,
This ev'ry aid shall yield me;
In sorrow it shall be my joy,
In conflict it shall shield me;
In joy, the music of my feast,
And when all else has lost its zest,
This manna still shall feed me;
In thirst my drink, in want my food;
My company in solitude,
To comfort and to lead me.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, but we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and comfort us with your salvation; 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 ----- Isaiah 55:1-7

Hey, all of you who are thirsty, come to the water,
even if you have no money!

Come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and
without cost.

Why do you spend money on something that is
not bread?

Why do you waste your labor on something that
does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good.

Satisfy your appetite with rich food.

Turn your ear toward me, and come to me.

Listen, so that you may continue to live.

Yes, I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
the faithful mercies promised to David.

Look, I appointed him as a witness for peoples,
a leader and commander of peoples.

Look, you will call out to a nation you do not
know,

and a nation that does not know you will run to
you,

on account of the LORD your God,

because of the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found!

Call on him while he is near!

Let the wicked man abandon his way.
Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.
Let him turn to the LORD,

and he will show him mercy.
Let him turn to our God,
because he will abundantly pardon.

Hymn ----- Glory Be to Jesus

CW 103

Children's Choir

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind.
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem.
4. Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies,
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.
5. Oft as earth exulting Lifts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
6. Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Second Lesson ----- Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you really listening to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman, and one by the free woman. However, the son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but the son by the free woman was born through a promise. These things can be used as an illustration; namely, the women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children into slavery. This is Hagar. You see, this Ha-

gar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and she corresponds to present-day Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is in slavery along with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free. She is our mother. For it is written:

Rejoice, barren woman who does not give birth. Break forth and shout for joy, woman who does not suffer birth pains, because the barren woman has more children than does

the woman who has a husband.

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of the promise. But just as back then the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one who was born according to the Spirit, so this is also the case now. But what does the Scripture

say? “Throw out the slave woman and her son, because the son of the slave woman will certainly not receive the inheritance with the son of the free woman.” For this same reason, brothers, we are not children of a slave woman, but of the free woman.

Verse of the Day

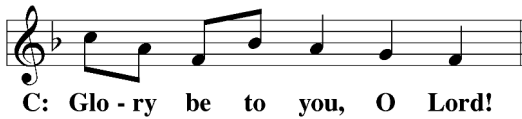
John 3:16

M: For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Stand.

Gospel ----- John 6:1–15

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



After this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). A large crowd followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he was performing on those who were sick. Jesus went up on the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

When Jesus looked up and saw a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, “Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?” But Jesus was saying this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to have just a little.”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what is that for so many people?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. There were about five thousand men.

Then Jesus took the loaves and, after giving thanks, he distributed pieces to those who were seated. He also did the same with the fish—as much as they wanted.

When the people were full, he told his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five bar-

ley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

When the people saw the miraculous sign Jesus did, they said, "This really is the Prophet who is coming into the world."

When Jesus realized that they intended to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Jesus, Priceless Treasure

CW 349

1. Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide thee, Naught I ask beside thee.
2. In thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, tho' sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.
3. Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore him, Silent bow before him.

4. Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure; Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss Or shame or cross
Shall not from my Savior move me Since he deigns to love me.
5. Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Sermon ----- Ezra 1:1-6

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD given through the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia. Cyrus circulated a proclamation throughout his kingdom and recorded it in a written document.

This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

The LORD, the God of Heaven, has given all the kingdoms of the earth to me. He has appointed me to build a house for him in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. From all his people, whoever among you is willing (may the LORD his God be with him) is permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah. He may build the House of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the

God who is in Jerusalem. Any of the exiles who have survived, in any place where they are living as resident aliens, may receive support from the people of that place: silver, gold, goods, and livestock, along with their voluntary contributions for the House of the God who is in Jerusalem.

Then the heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin, the priests, and the Levites arose—everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to build the House of the LORD, which is in Jerusalem. All of their neighbors supported them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with livestock, and with valuables, in addition to all kinds of voluntary contributions.

Seize the Opportunities God Gives to Build God's Church

1. *Opportunities that Surprise You*
2. *Opportunities that Invite You*

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.

*Online giving option:
mluther.org/give*



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

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 rescue from sin and its blindness; for ears opened to the Lord's Word; for minds enlightened by His Spirit; and for hearts that give thanks for His gracious benefits in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the Church, Jerusalem on high, our mother in Christ until Christ is fully formed in us; for all pastors, that they may be faithful stewards of God's mysteries; and for all who bring the message of salvation to those who have not heard, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For confidence in the gift of Baptism, that it would unite us evermore in the death and resurrection of Christ; and that we would continue together in its comfort and power, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation, that God would strengthen homes and keep families firm in the Christian faith; and that He would preserve our nation from wickedness and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: That God's heavenly care would extend to each of His children, [*and especially to _____,*] that they may rejoice in this sustaining and healing grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the poor and hungry, that God would sustain them in their bodies and reveal to them the riches of His mercy in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all who commune this day, that as God provided food from heaven for Israel during their days of wandering, so He would give us also the true food of heaven, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, to sustain us in faith and hope during our days of pilgrimage until at last we behold His glory with our own eyes, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us always to trust in Your promises, that we may be true sons of the free woman and heirs with Christ; 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.

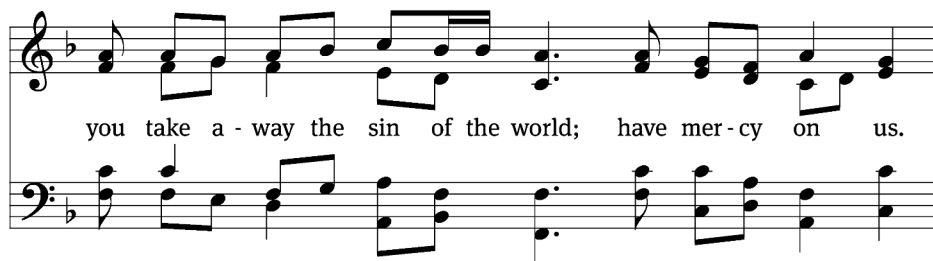


C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

A musical score for the Agnus Dei, featuring a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The score is in C major and 4/4 time. The vocal line is written on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "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 ----- Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

CW 98

1. Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
2. Make me see your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound you,
How for them you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.
3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of your crucifixion.
4. If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!
5. Grant that I your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to you By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?
6. Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing your praise forever.

Hymn ----- In the Hour of Trial

CW 116

1. In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me
Lest by base denial I unworthy be.
When you see me waver, With a look recall,
Nor for fear or favor Ever let me fall.
2. With forbidden pleasures Should this vain world charm
Or its tempting treasures Spread to work me harm,
Bring to my remembrance Sad Gethsemane
Or, in darker semblance, Cross-crowned Calvary.
3. Should your mercy send me Sorrow, toil, and woe,
Or should pain attend me On my path below,
Grant that I may never Fail your cross to view;
Grant that I may ever Cast my care on you.
4. When my life is ending, Though in grief or pain,
When my body changes Back to dust again,
On your truth relying, Through that mortal strife,
Jesus, take me, dying, To eternal life.

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 ----- Savior, When in Dust to You

CW 124

1. Savior, when in dust to you Low we bow in homage due,
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
Oh, by all your pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!
2. By your helpless infant years, By your life of want and tears,
By your days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour Of th' insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye, Hear our penitential cry!
3. By your hour of dire despair, By your agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh, Hear our penitential cry!
4. By your deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
Oh, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

