

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8th, 2026



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

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Cover: “Jesus Heals a Silent Demoniac” by Gustave Doré, 1878.

THE COMMON SERVICE

Stand.

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



C: A - men.

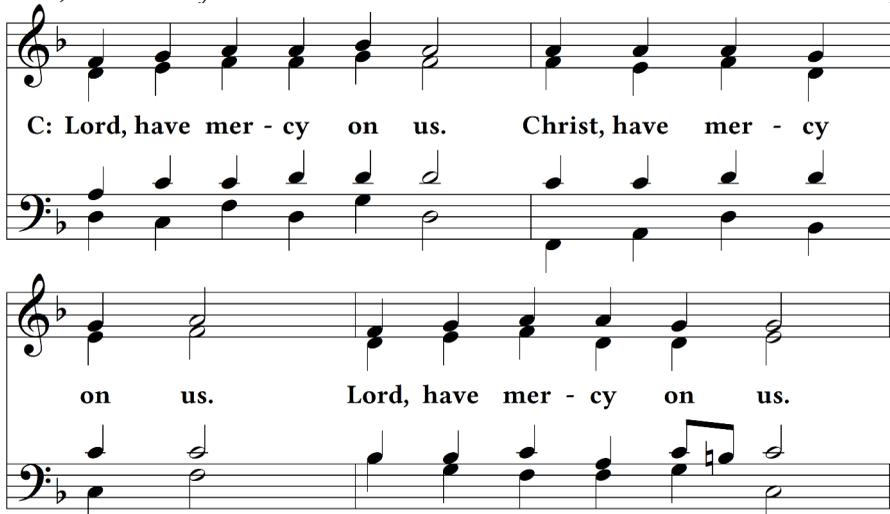
CONFESSION OF SINS

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. 5-6 (CW 100)

5. Lord, all my life I'll cling to Thee,
Thy love fore'er beholding,
Thee ever, as Thou ever me,
With loving arms enfolding.
Yea, Thou shalt be my precious Light
To guide me safe through death's dark night,
My heart in sorrow cheering;
Henceforth myself and all I have
To Thee, my Savior, e'er I'll give,
Into Thy cause all pouring.

6. From morn till eve my theme shall be
Thy mercy's wondrous measure;
To sacrifice myself for Thee
Shall be my aim and pleasure.
My stream of life shall ever be
A current flowing ceaselessly,
Thy constant praise outpouring.
I'll treasure in my memory,
O Lord, all Thou hast done for me,
Thy gracious love adoring.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants, and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- **Jeremiah 26:1–15**

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, the following word came from the LORD.

This is what the LORD says. Stand in the courtyard of the LORD's house, and speak to people from the cities and towns of Judah who have come to worship at the House of the LORD. Tell them everything I have commanded you to tell them. Do not hold back a single word. Maybe they will listen, and everyone will turn from his evil way. Then I will relent and not bring about the disaster that I was planning because of the evil things they have done.

You are also to say this to him.

This is what the LORD says. If you will not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you, and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (but you have not listened), then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make the name of this city a curse word for all the nations of the earth.

The priests, the prophets, and all the people listened as Jeremiah spoke these words at the House of the LORD. When Jeremiah had finished saying everything the LORD had commanded him

to say to all the people, then the priests, the prophets, and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! Why do you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will be like Shiloh and that this city will be desolate with no one living here?" All the people crowded around Jeremiah in the House of the LORD.

When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they came up from the king's house to the House of the LORD and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has been prophesying against this city, as you heard with your

own ears."

Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the things that you have heard. Now reform your ways and your actions, and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring about the disaster he has pronounced against you. But as for me, look, I am in your hands. Do with me whatever seems good and right in your eyes. But you can be certain of this. If you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live here, for it is true that the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 73

CW p.94

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.**

I am always with you, O LORD;*
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

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

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- Ephesians 5:1-9

Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But do not let sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, or greed even be mentioned among you, as is proper for saints. Obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking are also out of place. Instead, give thanks. Certainly you are aware of this: No immoral, impure, or greedy person—such a person is

an idolater—has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, who is God. Let no one deceive you with empty words. It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. So do not share in what they do.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Verse of the Day

John 3:14,15

M: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Stand.

Gospel ----- Luke 11:14-28

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

Jesus drove out a demon, which was mute. After the demon had gone out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed.

But some of them said, “He drives out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” Others were testing him by demanding of him a sign from

heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed. And a house divided against itself falls. If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? You say that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. But if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? So they will be your judges. Yet if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and defeats him, he takes away that man's full armor, in which he had trusted, and divides up his plunder.

"The one who is not with me is against me.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- If God Had Not Been on Our Side

CW 202

1. If God had not been on our side And had not come to aid us,
Our foes with all their pow'r and pride Would surely have dismayed us,
For we, his flock, would have to fear
 The devil's wolves, both far and near,
Who rise in might against us.
2. Their furious wrath, did God permit, Would surely have consumed us
And as a deep and yawning pit With life and limb entombed us.
A hellish storm would o'er us roll From Satan, who desires our soul

And seeks to overwhelm us.

3. Blest be the Lord, who foiled their threat That they could not devour us.
Our souls, like birds, escaped their net; They could not overpower us.
The snare is broken—we are free! Our helper and our strength is he
Who made the earth and heavens.

Sermon ----- Luke 11:14–28

Jesus Divides and Plunders Satan's Kingdom

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.**”*

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



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

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

M: For hearts softened by the Word of God and by the plagues and trials of this world, that we would repent of our sins and be found faithful at the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the Church on earth, that her Lord would preserve and bless her; that He would keep us, her members, from falling into the sin of pride and self-confidence; and that He would grant boldness to her ministers as they preach His Word to all, especially to those in need of repentance, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the members of every Christian family, that the Lord who calls us to live in purity and holiness would protect us and guide us; and that we would love and seek chastity and decency, learning to grow in virtue and godly living, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our nation’s leaders, that the King of kings and Judge of the earth would establish them and grant them wisdom for the good of those they govern; and for the Christian Church in our land, that God would keep her from persecution and graciously cause His Word to flourish, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who are sick, anxious, lonely or oppressed in any way, [*especially _____,*] that God, who is the strength of the weak, would overcome the devil’s demonic attempts to lead them into despair, and grant His healing, cleansing power to rest upon their bodies and minds, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who commune, that the Lord, who joins His Word to the bread and wine and invites us to eat and drink, would grant us to hear and keep His Word in faith, and so worthily receive the true body and blood of our Savior to our eternal blessing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For those who have no right knowledge of God or who have wandered from the truth, that our Lord, who seeks not the death but the life of all, would free them from all error and bring them into the fellowship of His Holy Church to the glory of His name, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take up our flesh, that He might overcome the devil and defend us poor sinners against the adversary. We thank You for Your merciful aid and implore You to attend us with Your grace in every temptation. Preserve us from carnal security and, by Your Spirit, keep us in Your Word and fear, that we may be delivered from the enemy and obtain eternal salvation; 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

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 hymn:

Hymn ----- Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

CW 121

1. Jesus, grant that balm and healing In your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

2. Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Let me think about your passion, And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the tempter flee confounded.
3. If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me think about the load
You were willing to endure; Then I'll flee all thoughts impure,
Mastering each wild temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.
4. Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm weak, your cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, your comfort renders sweet Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For your all-atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation.
5. O my God, my Rock and Tower, Grant that in your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost his power Since you crushed him in the dust.
Savior, let your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

Hymn ----- Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

CW 309

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.
2. He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

3. Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.

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 ----- Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 106

1. Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
 Here a pure and healing fountain Flows to you, to me, to all,
 In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
2. Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
 From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
 Wash your robes and make them white; You shall walk with God in light.
3. Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
 Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
 Health this fountain will restore; He that drinks shall thirst no more.

4. He that drinks shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.

