

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 26th, 2023



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
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Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: O Almighty and eternal God, we implore You to direct, sanctify, and govern our hearts and bodies in the ways of Your laws and the works of Your commandments that through Your mighty protection, both now and ever, we may be preserved in body and in soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Turkey and Syria:

Almighty God, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, and Your ways are not our ways. In Your infinite wisdom which is beyond our understanding, You have permitted this disastrous earthquake to befall the people in Turkey and Syria. Direct all efforts to attend to the injured. Console the bereaved. Protect the helpless, deliver all who are still in danger, and give courage and steadfastness to the relief and aid workers. Bring hope and healing to the suffering that they may find relief and restoration. Open our hearts that we would provide necessary aid to those who are afflicted and distressed by this disaster. All this we ask through the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You, one God, now and forever.

Prayer for Ukraine:

Please continue to remember in prayer our brothers and sisters of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU).

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Jas. 4:1-10 Wednesday: Heb. 4: 14-16 Friday: Matt. 16: 21-28
Tuesday: Jas. 1:13-18 Thursday: Heb. 12: 1-7 Saturday: Matt. 12: 38-42

Musician: 10 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz **Wednesday:** Carole Pink
Reader: 10 a.m. – Gloria Meyer
Greeter: 10 a.m. –

THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:10—9:40 - Confirmation Class today

10:00 - Lent 1 – Divine Service Setting 1 [with Communion]

Monday: 10-11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study
7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice

Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments
7:30 — Worship Committee meeting

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. –Chili at Church Lenten Dinner
7:00 p.m. – 10 Commandments Focus
8:00 p.m.- Youth Board Zoom Meeting

Thursday: 10 -11:30 a.m. – SOUL

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held on the first 2 Sundays of each month.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS: If you or someone you know would benefit from friendly conversation, a time for kids to play & sing; hear a Bible story and make a craft - please join us Tuesdays in the nursery area from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Coffee and tea are always on.


Review and Renew
Back to the Basics

What We Believe & Why It Matters
Lenten Focus 2023
Wednesdays Feb 22 - March 29 7-8 PM

- 1) Ash Wednesday Simple Communion & ashes - Purposeful praying or praying with purpose? [Lord's Prayer focus]
- 2) What does "Living Word" mean [10 Commandments focus]
- 3) What happens when I follow God's lead! [the Apostles' Creed focus]
- 4) Little Christ, little me [Baptism focus]
- 5) How our hearts and mouths align [Confession and Forgiveness focus]
- 6) You are what you eat [Holy Communion focus]

Midweek Lent will have hymns, prayer, Scripture and a Bible Study format message with discussion question time.
We meet in the Church Sanctuary.

Holy Week & Easter will be the usual worship services



Lenten Study Material will be available, before Ash Wednesday, for all who wish to join.

Ash Wednesday will be a regular church service with Communion and imposition of ashes.

"**Review & Renew**" is a Bible Study which will be conducted by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary the remaining Wednesdays of Lent

Holy Week will be regular church services.

Join the Fellowship Committee for a "**FREE DINNER**" every Wednesday of Lent, at 6:00 p.m. before the "**Review & Renew**" Bible Study



Wednesday, February 22:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 1:	Chili at Church
Wednesday, March 8:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 15:	Soup & Salvation
Wednesday, March 22:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 29:	Praise and Pasta



From the desk of Pastor Todd

MARCH 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 5 - Lent 2 -- Scripture & Song Service [Worship/Praise band]
[Daylight savings] March 12 - Lent 3 -- LSB DS Setting 3 Communion
March 19 - Lent 4 - Creative Morning Praise
March 26 - Lent 5 - LSB DS setting 1 Communion

MARY MARTHA: The following is our Mary Martha Schedule for our Winter/Spring program:

- March 21: Quilt tying and stamp trimming
- April 18: Speaker-Jude Mersereau
- May 16: Bible Study--Pastor Todd (tentative)
- June 10: Potluck

Please feel free to attend any, or all, of our Tuesday night events!
(If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Mark your calendars for VBS. **In-person VBS** is being planned this summer **Monday, July 17 to Friday, July 21**. The program will run in the morning with an afternoon extended care for Grade 1-6. More information will be coming.

NIAGARA ZONE PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Registration: 2:30 p.m.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

470 Glenridge Ave, St Catharines, Ontario

THEME: "My Soul Rejoices"

Bible Verse: Psalm 51: 11

A dessert and/or fruit from each society attending would be appreciated.

Car-pooling is recommended since there are only 14 parking spots next to the Seminary.

There is additional parking available in Zone 1, Lot M.

MUSIC TRIVIA & DINNER

The Fellowship Committee is reserving a few tables for an evening of:

NAME THAT TUNE!!

Saturday, March 11th

Port Dalhousie Yacht Club, 74 Lighthouse Rd.

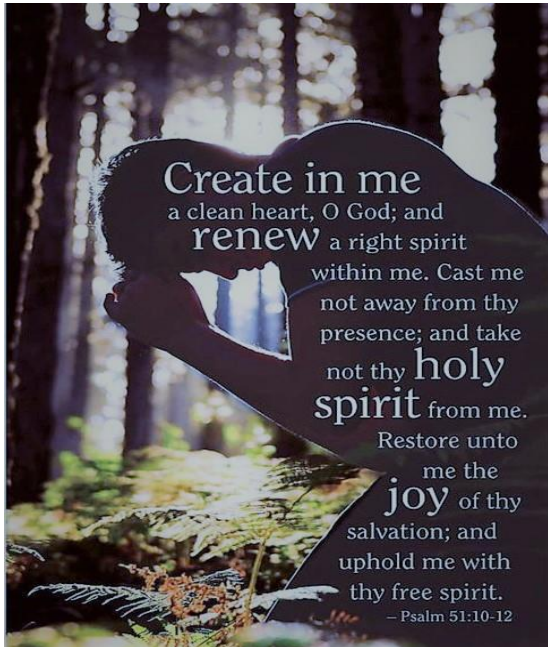
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Pub Food Buffet at 6:00 p.m.

Game Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$25 plus HST = \$28.25

Sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in a fun evening of "Music Trivia" and "Fellowship". Once we have committed numbers, the Fellowship Committee will purchase and distribute the tickets. Any questions contact Tim, Judy or Marge



Last Sunday Attendance: February 19th, 2023 Attn: 10 a.m. – 80 SOUL: cancelled due to storm

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	297,841.00	5,840.02	2,440.00	31,261.18	(14,560.51)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	133.00	1,982.00	(633.38)
Property Improvement:			47.00	916.00	

2022 DONATION RECEIPTS: Please check your mailbox for your 2022 Donation Tax Receipt. Please help us keep mailing costs down by picking up yours by February 26, any not picked up by then will be mailed. If you can pick up for a family member that will not be able to before that date, that would be appreciated.

GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED JOINING THE CHOIR? Do you like to sing? We could always use more voices and would give you a hearty welcome. We will be starting up practices again on February 6th and continuing as we do, each Monday evening from 7:30 – 9 pm approximately. We look now towards the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) and taking us into Holy Week in April. Speak to Carole if you might be interested.

THANK YOU: "Dear brothers and sisters from Christ Lutheran, We still are in awe after our baby shower, your generosity is beyond words! Clarissa will be clothed and have diapers, books and toys for a good while now, which brought us to tears (Eduardo said he was not going to cry, but he was really thankful too). God's grace and guidance, and the community of faith, will be a great foundation for Clarissa's life. He is good indeed! Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Eduardo, Daniela and Clarissa"
I, too, would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the amazing love and support for all those who helped make her baby shower a very memorable one. (Lorraine Kaija)



Easter Colouring Contest

Colouring Sheets will be made available
in the Narthex starting

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH.

All entries will be put on display.

The following categories:

- ❖ SUNDAY SCHOOL
- ❖ CONFIRMAND AND YOUTH
- ❖ SOUL
- ❖ CONGREGATION

Top winner from each category will
receive a gift card.

Winners will be announced at the Easter
Breakfast

HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK SETTING ONE

THE 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 26, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN:

"Jesus Refuge Of The Weary"

LSB # 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest re - deem - er, whom we love,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re - pen - tant vow,
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent love for you;



Foun - tain in life's 'des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior from the world a - bove:
Though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, See your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?
May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be - hold your cross a - new



Of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall;
Yet your sin - less death has brought us Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;
Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,



Yet up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
On - ly what your grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
Grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

*Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-96, alt.
Tune: Herrnhut, c. 1735*

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87 87 D

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sin, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our
sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** [Brief silence for reflection]

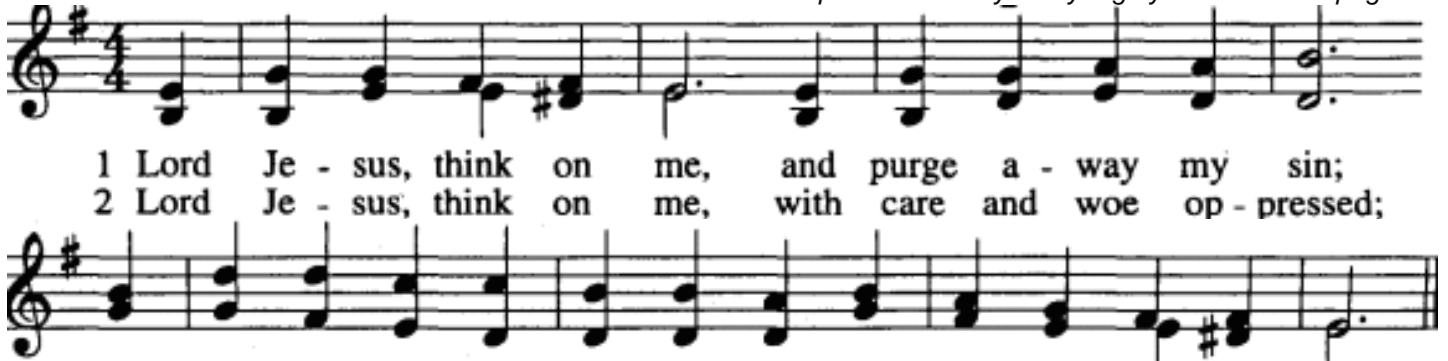
Let us then confess our sin to God our Father:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned
against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of
Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we
may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

KYRIE HYMN:

Reprinted: www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/page/419



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op - pressed;
from earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste your prom - ised rest.

WORDS: Synesius of Cyrene (ca. 375-430); tr. Allen W. Chatfield (1808-1896)
MUSIC: William Damon's Psalms, 1579

SOUTHWELL
S.M.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: O Lord God, You led Your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that following Your Son, we may safely walk through the wilderness of this world toward the life You alone can give. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

Old Testament: *Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7*

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Romans 5: 12-19*

[St. Paul writes:] Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings

justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: "With The Lord There Is Mercy"

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.
 With the Lord, with the Lord, with the Lord there is mer—cy, and fullness of redemption.
 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! Lord hear my voice! Lord hear my voice!
 Let your ears be attentive, your ears be attentive,
 your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.
 With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.
 With the Lord, with the Lord, with the Lord there is mer—cy, and fullness of redemption.

One License Song #29672 William P. Rowan Tune: © 2002 Augsburg Fortress Text: © 2002 Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved Streamed with permission under One License # A-741085 All rights reserved

SUNG LENTEN GOSPEL VERSE:

LSB tune # 157

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel St. Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter:

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. This is the Gospel of the Lord:



C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG:

"Near The Cross"



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and Morn - ing Star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ows o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832-1915

This Far By Faith, African-American Lutheran Hymnal, © 1999 //hymnary.org/hymn/TFBF1999/page/226

MESSAGE

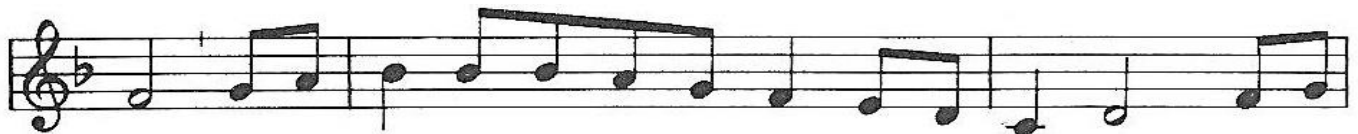
OFFERINGS *are gathered*

OFFERING HYMN:

"What Shall I Render?"



☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, thank you for your selfless love expressed in creation, and thank you for your ongoing commitment to this sinful world. Help us use the freedom we have to serve you well, as stewards of your good world. Bring to an end all abuse of your world and of the people you have made.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Help us to care for the earth so that it will be a healthier place for our children and the generations to come. And give us the faith and wisdom to do our duty well, as we participate with you in creating the future. Preserve the earth from natural and man-made disaster, and bless it with good seasonable weather.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Be with all your people in times of trouble and temptation, and remind us that our real life is with Christ. Give courage and hope to those who want to give up on life or who are afraid of the future. Help us provide for hungry or homeless, for lost and lonely, and all who cry out for help.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Support all technologies, progressions and places of learning. Protect all who are in places of danger or distress, especially where war or disaster threatens life and property. Instill mercy in the hearts and conversations of all world leaders. Bless our own land and her governing body. Defend all Christians who are persecuted and harassed for the faith. May we in our lives overcome all evil through the gift of Christ Who endured suffering for the life of this world.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Watch over us in this Lenten season O God, and draw us closer to our suffering Saviour. Strengthen those who are weak in the faith, who struggle through doubts, and guide those who are preparing for baptism and confirmation.

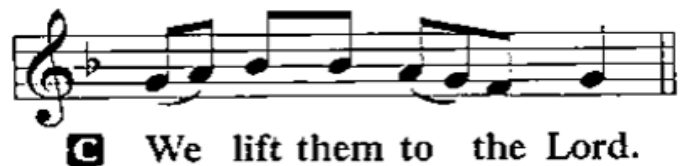
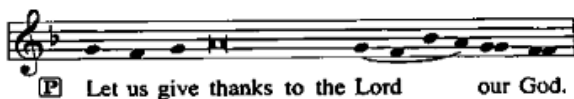
Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Relieve all who are coping with sickness, pain, and any who are suffering in mind, body and spirit. Give your peace and patience to those awaiting surgery or to hear the results of medical tests. Support all those we know personally.....

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

O God our Father, by the cross of Your Son You reconciled the world to Yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise You for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us forgive each other and all others and to establish truth and harmony throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT



It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so with the Church on earth and with all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

LSB Page 161

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en 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 who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...*

WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD

LSB tune # 163

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION [Pilgrim style]

COMMUNION HYMNS:

"Shepherd Of Souls"

[Tune: O Jesus King, Most Wonderful]



1. Shep-herd of souls, re-fresh and bless
2. We would not live by bread a-lone,
3. Be known to us in break-ing bread,
4. Lord, sup with us in love di-vine;



Your cho-sen pil-grim flock With man-na in the
But by your word of grace, In strength of which we
But do not then de-part; Sav-ior, a-bide with that
Your Bod-y and your Blood, That liv-ing bread, that



wil-der-ness, With wa-ter from the rock.
trav-el on To our a-bid-ing place.
us, and spread Your ta-ble in our heart.
heav'n-ly wine, Be our im-mor-tal food.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Tune: ST. AGNES, CM; John B. Dykes, 1823-1876; harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

"O Living Bread From Heaven"

[Tune: The Church's One Foundation]



- 1 O liv-ing Bread from heav-en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav-ior, you have led me with-in your ho-liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want-ed; this food can death de-stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strength-ened with heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv-en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your-self have fed me with trea-sures of your grace;
And you have free-ly grant-ed the cup of end-less joy.
my course on earth is length-ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won-drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

AURELIA
 7676D

POST COMMUNION HYMN:

“Lord, Now You Let Your Servant”

LSB Page 164



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1951
Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951

ON EAGLES' WINGS
Irregular meter

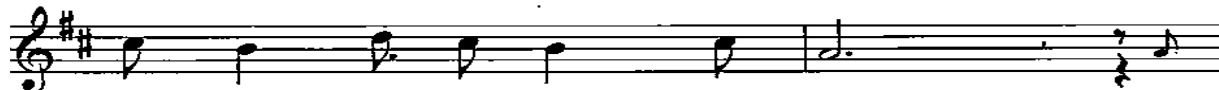
Text and tune: © OCP Publications

Pp. 91-112: 101:5

LAST HYMN: "On Eagles' Wings" LSB # 727



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
3 You need not fear the - - - - - ter - ror of the night, Nor the
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
fam - ine will bring you no fear;
ar - row that flies - - - - - by day; Though
guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My - - - - - ref - uge, My - - - - -
Un - der His wings your - - - - - ref - uge, His - - - - -
thou - sands - - - - - fall a - - - - - bout you,
on their - - - - - hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock - - - - - in whom - - - - - I - - - - - trust!"
faith - - - - - ful - ness - - - - - your - - - - - shield.
Near you it shall - - - - - not - - - - - come.
dash - - - - - your foot a - - - - - gainst a stone.



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

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REV. TODD HOEFFS

LENT 1 - February 26, 2023

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

“We Are The Champions”

DASN'T:

Spelled D A S N apostrophe T.

When my Grandma said the word “dasn’t” I knew I crossed a line.

After school I often stopped at her and Grandpa’s home. I told her I “hated” someone --

And she said -- “Oh, no, you DASN’T say that. ‘Hate’ means you want them dead – you dasn’t want them dead.” She sat down and told me from the Bible and Lutheranism about not hating or hurting or killing and all the “dasn’ts” we “dasn’t” do. Dasn’t I later learned is a slang version of DARE NOT. You dare not because the consequences may be severe. Adam and Eve’s experience in Garden in Genesis is a “DASN’T” message for us. The wreckage of this story is precisely why God etched His Holy Law in stone tablets, the 10 Commandments for all the “dasn’t” things we do and think and say. It wasn’t always this way. Adam and Eve lived real paradise. Better than anything we’ve ever seen on earth. Not only in its beauty, but in its perfect partnership with the Creator. They can eat from nearly every tree in the garden. Wow. Perfect freedom, perfect choice.

Just leave ONE TREE alone: The tree of knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of it you’ll die.

Along comes the lousy satanic snake with a smooth line and some new ideas. Did God “really say that...” If you eat, you will be like God – but ---- no, Only God knows what’s really good and evil.

We don’t. We only know what we believe by faith coming from the Holy Spirit at work in us.

That’s the tempting trap, The pride and arrogance of religion :

to think that WE KNOW

The arrogance of knowing who’s in and who’s out of God’s good graces.

That’s the sure sign of Evil = It’s always absolutely certain; Evil has no self-doubt.

Evil has all the answers. It forces you to feel the ancient lie -- Your sins can be worse than the Gospel of Jesus which saves you. [Repeat] It’s a lie, but one we all tend to believe now and then.

We live in faith. That faith is a gift. We can’t see it, touch it or feel it. But it’s there.

Like the foundation under the basement. With faith we’re never sure we’re right!

All you can be certain of is –

- 1) You are loved by God unconditionally;
- 2) Jesus died for you and all people;
- 3) Jesus saves you;
- 4) Jesus will take you to be with Him in heaven forever.

That is faith coming from baptism and God’s own Word

And it should be every church’s focus. As comforting and wonderful as this is, It’s one of the largest sources of conflict among Christians. Most religions turn you off – They’re always absolutely sure – they’re right → all are wrong – And it’s a waste of time. Jesus has made it simple.

Love God, love your neighbour as yourself. This is why God warned about the tree of G & E.

It will KILL YOU! You will know death. This is why Jesus enters the human scene.

Jesus is driven out into the wilderness. After the Father’s booming voice at His Baptism says –

This is my Son, the Beloved, in Whom I AM well pleased. The wilderness is just about as far from paradise as you can get. A place one who is well-loved and well-pleasing wouldn’t go.

There, unlike Adam and Eve who lived in a wonderful communion with God, Jesus is alone

exhausted, starving, as he struggles with *His* time of temptation. There’s just no coming back from the death inflicted by eating of that one tree. Jesus must stand in for all of us. He must be vulnerable,

weak, human. Satan tempts Him. Pirazo is the Greek word Matthew uses for tempting. It's more of a test, to see the fabric of a person. Same term used in Greek culture to see if a garment was real, Or if gemstones were real – like seeing if a diamond cuts glass or not. Devil wants to see what Jesus is made of. Man, God, both? Devil quotes Scripture?! Surprising? Only nice, good people use the Bible we tend to think. It's being used for selfish desires. The way a believer could misuse the Bible to claim God hates or disapproves of someone.

[Which happens all the time, even in our own hearts.] Devil is giving Jesus the temptation to misuse POWER. You're hungry Jesus, make bread out of these stones. Feed your hunger, its easy, who will care?! We all have need for power, control, to be in charge, # 1 The devil doesn't give up easily either. Food doesn't work, then it's his relationship. Jump off the temple pinnacle. Angels will save you. Another misquote of the Bible. He wants Jesus to choose being right, not free. Last test is Jesus' political interests. World power. Just turn your back on God and worship the devil!

Crazy. Jesus is God. He created the world. The very WORD Jesus uses to combat the devil Is the very substance of His being. The Bible is in Jesus' DNA. The OLD TESTAMENT WORD is living and breathing as Jesus. Everyone in the world wants power. He can't seduce the Lord

But he can seduce us time and time again. No matter how strong we think we are, we simply can't move in the direction God would have us go. We're pulled very easily along lines that go against our will or what is best for us. Fear makes sure we're defined by our appetites and our egos.

Fear works on our minds and pulls us away from our purpose. And our purpose in this life involves -- A life of faith in God, trusting Him, Losing our own will and having God's will in our being. Just as we can only be growing branches when living in the Vine. God doesn't test you to see how you'll do. He knows. When God brings us into a time of testing, a wilderness time, It's so we discover for ourselves how we're doing – To see how far we have grown. To see how many times Jesus has been there all the time. Sometimes God wants to show us a more challenging area where we need growth. You never fail a test with God. Lead us not into temptation we pray in the Lord's Prayer. And He doesn't. He, too, sees the fabric of our being And knows what we're made of. His Son is in us. Jesus lives in our lives. Jesus lives through our lives. It's never about being strong enough; It's about being empty. Victory is the gift that comes from surrender. And not always a promising earthly victory. It might be peace of mind, It might be settling for less in a material sense to have that peace of mind. It may be the assurance that no matter what, God is on your side. This is why Jesus faced Satan in the wilderness.

He is so much on your side He willingly weakened His resolve To be a sitting target for a fallen angel Who is so evil and hates God and humanity so much this creature Jesus faces as if He IS Powerless and in fact, strips all of hell's powers away. This our Lord does willingly.

As He will do in the fullest sense on the cross. Lay down totally vulnerable to whips and thorns and nails. Soaked with our sin and the world's curse, the paradise lost, Jesus faces the worst of the wilderness on Calvary's hill. And paradise is won.

This is why this season on Lent is often characterized by giving up things. Lutherans have never been really strong on that, Mostly because it can feel artificial to give up something for a little over a month. It's supposed to create a new feeling of hunger inside And by giving up something,

You surrender to let God fill that void. Because only He can quiet what's restless deep inside.

This is the heart of repentance.

An emptying only to be filled by Jesus. With Jesus Himself. In Bread and Wine. In words of forgiveness. In prayer and Scripture. With the faith and Grace to accept ourselves and all of humanity as it is – God's people empty with a need to be filled up again. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday dust and ends in the final dust of our death, From Adam to Jesus to us – And everything in between is growing up, waking, showing up, cleaning up Becoming the full image of who God has created us to be. Learning to avoid life's DASN'T moments, Living in trust, Which is enjoying a full Peace-filled

Deeply connected with Jesus. He has overcome, and we overcome. We are the champions.

Amen.

Name:

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love

