

Sexagesima

February 23rd, 2025



Liturgy: WS p. 22; Resp. WS #755

so
shall
my
Word
be...



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #296

"Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth"

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

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

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

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us pray: **C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response

TLH #266:4

C ♪ **My Lord art Thou, And for me now**

Death holds no dreadful terrors; Thy precious blood,

My highest good, Hath blotted out my errors.

My thanks to Thee! Thou wilt to me Fulfil Thy promise ever

And mercy give While here I live And heav'nly bliss forever.

The Introit

Ps. 44:1-2, 7-8, 23, 25-26

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!
- C** For our soul is bowed down to the dust. Rise up; come to our help!
- P** O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:
- C** You with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free.
- P** But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us.
- C** In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.



Hebrews 4:9-13

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.



Luke 8:4-15

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him,

he said in a parable, ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'" ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at

the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: WS #781

“Preach You the Word”

✠ **The Sermon** ✠



Isaiah 55:10-13

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but

water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

The Word is “Only” as Good as God

I. It's good and effective *for* you

II. It's good and effective *through* you

The Offertory

WS p. 16

☞ ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: TLH #290

“We Have a Sure Prophetic Word”

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

P Holy Communion is called the Lord's Supper, the Lord's Table, and the Sacrament of the Altar. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

The Order of Holy Communion



C **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given to us Christians under the bread and wine to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.**

Responses: WS #755

"What Is This Bread?"

C *♪ What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay
for our release. Oh, taste and see- the Lord is peace.*

✠ The Institution of the Lord's Supper ✠

P But where is this written?

C **The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul write this way:**

P "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same 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. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

C *♪ What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace, Brings His embrace, Of life and love,
And so I sing: Oh taste and see- The Lord is King.*

P What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C **The words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that God gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation through the Sacrament.**

P For where there is forgiveness of sins,

C **There is also life and salvation!**

C ♪ *So who am I, That I should live and He should die,
Under the rod. My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken
me? Oh taste and see- the Lord is free.*

P How can eating and drinking do such wonderful things?

C **Eating and drinking actually do nothing. It is the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" which do this.**

P These words, together with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main part of the Sacrament.

C **Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.**

C ♪ *Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear.
In mouth and soul, He makes us whole- Christ, truly present
in this meal. Oh, taste and see- the Lord is real.*

P When is one properly prepared to receive this Sacrament?

C **Customs in connection with eating and clothing are indeed a fine preparation.**

P However, a person is truly worthy and well-prepared who has faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

C **Whoever does not believe these words is unworthy and unprepared. The words, "for you," require nothing but believing hearts.**

C ♪ *Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe, That I receive, His very body and His blood.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is good.*

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns:

TLH #316; WS #754; TLH #306

After the distribution, we will continue with the hymn verse below.

☞ *♪ What can I say, To ever thank Him for His grace?
I'll take my place, Among His saints, And join my tongue in
word and song. Oh, taste and see, Praise God with me!*

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

Hymn: TLH #48 "How Blest Are They Who Hear God's Word"



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Ushers	2/23	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	3/2	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	3/9	Kendall B, Larry B.
Cleaning		This Week – The Eigenbergs (wk. 3)
		Up Next – Fogelman, Ahrens

Choir Practice – St. John's choir will begin practicing for the upcoming Lent and Easter season. Practices will be held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM beginning on March 2, and also on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM before the evening worship services at 6:30 PM, beginning on March 5 and continuing through Easter Sunday. We welcome any new members that would like to join—please speak with Phil Strike if you are interested!

Ladies' Aid will be meeting this Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 pm.

Children Singing – The Sunday School and Christian Day School children will be singing during the March 2nd service.

Mission Helper Trip Fund – This summer, we have the joyful privilege of sending Larry Boersen as a representative from our congregation to our brothers and sisters-in-Christ in Nepal as part of this summer's CLC Mission Helper Trip. Please pray for everyone involved as they prepare for the trip.

If you are able and willing to contribute funds to help offset the costs for Larry to travel to Nepal this summer, you are invited to do so by contributing to our **Mission Helper Trip Fund**, by marking donations as such on your offering envelope. (Use one of the blanks on the left side of the envelope.)

Our Website is currently under construction, please excuse anything that looks out-of-place at the moment.

CLC Call News – Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI, has **accepted** the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO.<> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau

Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN, has **accepted** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN, to serve as their pastor along with his current call.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

February 24th – March 1st, 2025

Mon Matthew 17:1-8 To those who believe on Him, Jesus is revealed as the glorious Son of the heavenly Father. He speaks with Moses and Elijah about the work He is soon to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Tues Romans 14:13-19 Speaking to the strong and weak in faith, Paul urges them not to pass judgment on each other, nor to cause each other to stumble, but to seek peace and build up one another.

Wed Genesis 49:9-12 In blessing his son Judah, Israel likens him to a lion, a strong ruler from whom the Messiah would one day come and bring even richer blessings.

Thurs Amos 8:1-14 The Lord pictures His people Israel as ripe summer fruit, ripe for judgment (vv1-3). In their quest for wealth, they have trampled on the needy (vv4-8). The judgment will be the removal of their true treasure, His Word, which they have despised (vv7-14).

Fri 2 Peter 1:16-21 Peter remembers the glory of Jesus' shining transfiguration and calls our attention to the prophetic word, fulfilled in Christ, who shines in our hearts. This is the gift of God the Holy Spirit!

Sat Matthew 17:9-13 Although Peter, James and John have seen His glory on the mountain, it will be hidden to unbelieving scribes during His walk to the cross for the redemption of all mankind.