



*A man had a fig tree planted in  
his vineyard; and he came  
seeking fruit and found none...*

LUKE 13:6, ESV

✝ **Sunday, March 23, 2025** ✝

✝ **Third Sunday in Lent** ✝

✝ **Praise Service – 10:30 am** ✝

## **Welcome in Jesus' Name**

May God richly bless you as you worship Him. If you are a guest with us, we want you to feel welcome; you honor us with your presence, and we are glad to have you here. Please fill out the Attendance Registration form in your bulletin. Prayer requests can also be made on the same insert.

## **Holy Communion**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as part of our worship service, on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during the 10:30am service. We invite those who share our confession of faith, namely, that Jesus is truly present in, with & under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to commune with us. Those who share a different confession or have not yet been instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. We offer individual cups. The light-colored cups in the center are grape juice instead of wine. Pastor will be available prior to the worship service to answer any questions about Holy Communion.

## **To Our Guests**

We often have guests in worship from all over the world. Please introduce yourself to Pastor or a Greeter before or after the worship service.

## **Restrooms**

Restrooms and changing tables are located out the back of the sanctuary and down the hallway.

Out of respect for your fellow worshippers & those who have diligently prepared for this worship service, we ask that you **silence your cell phones** & keep conversation to a minimum prior to the service.

***Large Print Bulletin: If you desire a sight-saving bulletin, please ask an usher.***

*Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by  
Women In Mission, the LWML*

## **Prelude by Mark and Phil**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*Please stand*

## **Opening Song**

*Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

*(Chorus)*

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

*(Chorus)*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

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

**C** Amen.

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

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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

**C** Amen.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Old Testament

*Ezekiel 33:7-20*

**A** God declares that the righteousness of the righteous will not cover their sin, and the wickedness of the wicked will not prevent God's forgiveness. God wants us to understand that one, He does not approve of sin, two, we cannot do anything to pay for our sin, and three, only God can forgive truly repentant sinners. Will we understand and repent? Hear these words from Ezekiel chapter 33:

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

**A** What does it mean to be led by God? As Moses led the people, they often forgot about God, and felt they could live anyway they wanted. Yet, God taught them differently. God has expectations for us as well. Still, we can take comfort in knowing that we will never be tempted by anything that God has not already provided a way out of. We just need to walk in Him in order to see the way out. The Epistle is from first Corinthians chapter 10:

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Song**

*Sanctuary*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 13:1-9*

**P** How does God look at our sinfulness? Does He approve of it? Does He get angry? Does He view one sinner worse than another? Listen to these words from the Gospel of Luke chapter 13:

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



## **Song of Faith**

*This I Believe*

Our Father everlasting, the all-creating One  
God Almighty  
Through your Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Savior

*(Chorus)*

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness, You rose in glorious light  
Forever and ever

*(Chorus)*

I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

*(Chorus)*

*Please be seated*

## **Sermon**

*What sin will be your demise?*

## **Offering**

*Please stand*

## Offertory

*Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son  
  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"  
Give thanks

## Prayers of the Church

### Preface

*LSB 216*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

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**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

## The Words of Our Lord

*LSB 217*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*All Who Are Thirsty*

All who are thirsty  
All who are weak  
Come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the stream of life

Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy  
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

Come Lord Jesus come  
Come Lord Jesus come

*Please be seated*

### **Consider the following as you approach the table:**

*Today's readings focused on our sinfulness. Are you ready to truly confess your sins, even those sins you hide from others? It is true that some sins are easier to admit than others. Especially the secret sins that we try to hide. We do not want to admit those for fear that others will look at us differently. Yet, as we approach God's table, we need to truly repent and admit those sins. The good news is that Christ died even for those secret sins. Let us examine ourselves, admit our faults, seek God's grace, and approach His table as we are reminded of these words from Christ, "This is My true body and blood given into death for the forgiveness of all of your sins."*

### **Distribution**

*Please stand*

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Song

*Praise the Father, Praise the Son*

O sovereign God, O matchless King  
The saints adore, the angels sing  
And fall before the throne of grace  
To you belongs the highest praise

These sufferings, this passing tide  
Under Your wings I will abide  
And every enemy shall flee  
You are my hope and victory

*(Chorus)*

Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, Three in One  
Clothed in power and in grace  
The name above all other names

To the valley, for my soul  
Thy great descent has made me whole!  
You word my heart has welcomed home  
Now peace like water ever flows

*(Chorus)*

## The Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and serve the Lord
- C** **Building bright futures, Anchored in Christ.**

## Postlude by Mark and Phil

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

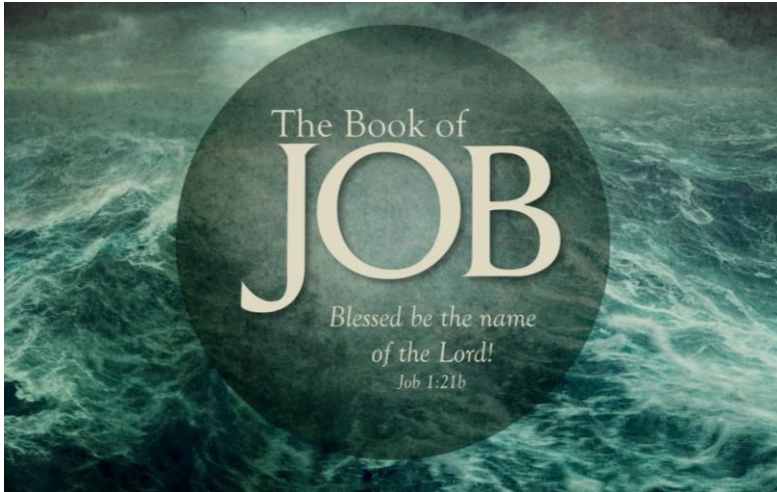
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**LCMS**Foundation  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. Part of that tension flows from immediate needs versus long-term needs in our lives. Some of God’s saints hesitate to commit to creating an estate gift for ministry because they say, “What if I need those funds before I die?” As long as the funds remain in your name, you always have access to use them. Yet, your estate plan is in place for things that you don’t use during your earthly life. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help explain this. Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or [tony.hunt@lfnd.org](mailto:tony.hunt@lfnd.org)

Join us on our Lenten Journey  
Exploring the Book of Job  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm - March 12-April 9



## ***Opportunities at Shepherd of the Coast***

- ✠8:30 am – A traditional worship service in the classic Lutheran liturgical style.  
✠9:30 am – Sunday School / 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study  
✠10:30 am – Praise Service – A contemporary worship service that is geared to families with young children.

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor: Chad Czischke**

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