



*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** ✝

✝ **Traditional Service – 8:30 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 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2nd & 4th 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: "Christ, Be My Leader" by David Cherwein

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand

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

Prayer of Confession

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- 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.**

Hymn of Confession - Jesus Sinners doth Receive

LSB #609



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let
6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;
my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my
By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I
And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

Absolution

- 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.

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:

⁷“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. ⁸If 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. ⁹But 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.

¹⁰“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?’ ¹¹Say 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?

¹²“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. ¹³Though 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. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if 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. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet 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:

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

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do 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.” ⁸We must not

indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now 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. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No 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.

Hymn - O Blessed Spring

LSB #595, st. 1 & 4

1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for

in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -

be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953–2021
 Tune: English
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 Tune: Public domain

Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel

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:

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or 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? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And 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?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then 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.

Hymn of Faith

LSB #953



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;
Who sus - tains and com-forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.
Bless-ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

Sermon

What sin will be your demise?

Offering: "O, Blessed Spring" by Phil Lehenbauer

Offertory - We Give Thee

LSB #781 st. 1-2



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89
Text and tune: Public domain

Versicles

286

- P** Jesus said, "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.
C **For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.**
P Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
C **But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.**
P And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
C **And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.**
P Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."
C **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**
P Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
C **Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,**
P give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
C **And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.**

- P** And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.
- C** **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

Please stand for prayer

Prayer

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, You order and number our days according to Your wisdom. Give us repentant hearts, lest we perish with this world of violence and suffering. Let us hold fast to Christ for life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful Lord, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, guard Your people against sinful lusts. Grant that our homes would be havens of godly instruction and love, and fill marriages with honesty and faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** God of all, You establish justice not through the desires of sinners but by Your Law, which is for all. Enlighten the authorities of this and every nation, that they might rule justly for true good. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Faithful God, protect us when we are tempted. Guard us especially from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that You provide the way of escape. Strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until You deliver us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, remember Your people who cry to You for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort, [*especially _____,*] and strengthen them to look to You for help in their time of affliction. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of compassion, through the abundance of Your steadfast love You gather us into Your house and welcome us to the Marriage Feast that has no end. Give all who worship here today a holy fear of Your wrath and faith in Your promises, that they would receive Your Word in truth and remember Christ's promise of forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do; through 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

162

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.**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 85

- P** Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**
- P** You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- C** **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**
- P** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- C** **Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** **Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

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 Hymn - Christ be My Leader

LSB #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion; with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024
Tune: Irish
no. 110000826
Tune: Public domain

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000826

Tune: Public domain

The Dismissal

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

Postlude: "Solemn Voluntary in C minor" by Phil Lehenbauer

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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LCMS Foundation

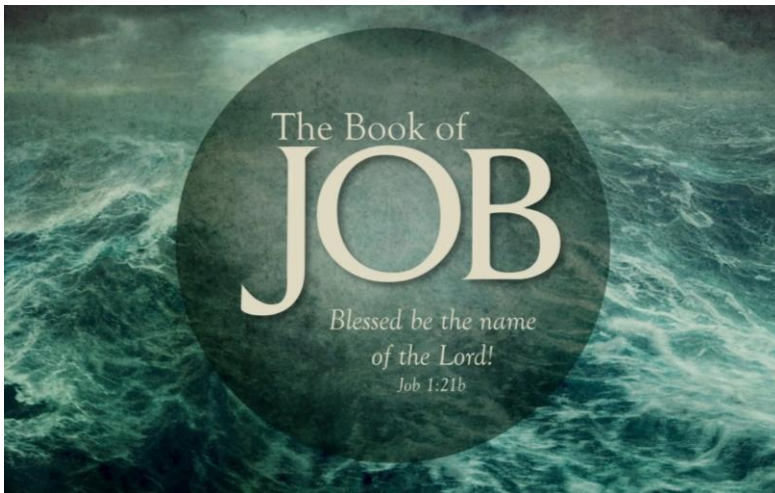
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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

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.

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