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March 23, 2025

Lent 3

Repent
&
Bear
Fruit

Luke 13:1-9

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 38 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: "Jesus Paid It All"

CW21 562

1 I hear the Sav-ior say, "Thy strength in-deed is small!
2 Lord, now in-deed I find thy pow'r, and thine a-lone
3 For noth-ing good have I where-by thy grace to claim;
4 And when, be-fore the throne, I stand in him com-plete,

Child of weak-ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
can change the lep-er's spots and melt the heart of stone.
I'll wash my gar-ments white in the blood of Cal-v'ry's Lamb.
"Je-sus died my soul to save," my lips shall still re-peat.

Refrain

Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;
sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a treble staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature, and a bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The second system also has two staves with the same key signature and time signature. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the accompaniment continues in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1820–1889

Tune: John T. Grape, 1835–1915; setting: *Christian Worship*, 2021

Text and tune: public domain

Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House

Order of Worship

Adapted from LSB Setting 4 – p. 203ff

Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and to call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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 neighbors 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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We 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 repentant hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your saving Word. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-32 (EHV)

²⁵ But you say, "The LORD's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? ²⁶ If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

²⁷ But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸ Because he has seen and turned away from^[a] all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹ But the house of Israel says, "The LORD's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

³⁰ Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. ³¹ Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm of Repentance – Psalm 38:1-4; 14-15, 22 (Worship Supplement – p. 39)

O LORD, DO NOT REBUKE

Antiphon



Psalm Tone



O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath,*
Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure!

For Your arrows pierce me deeply,*
And Your hand presses me down.

There is no soundness in my flesh
Because of Your anger,*
Nor is there any health in my bones
Because of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone over my head;*
Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

Antiphon

Thus I am like a man who does not hear,*
And in whose mouth is no response.

For in You, O LORD, I hope;*
You will hear, O LORD my God.

Make haste to help me,*
O LORD, my salvation!

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

Antiphon

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (EHV)

P The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, ² and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” ⁸ And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. ⁹ Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

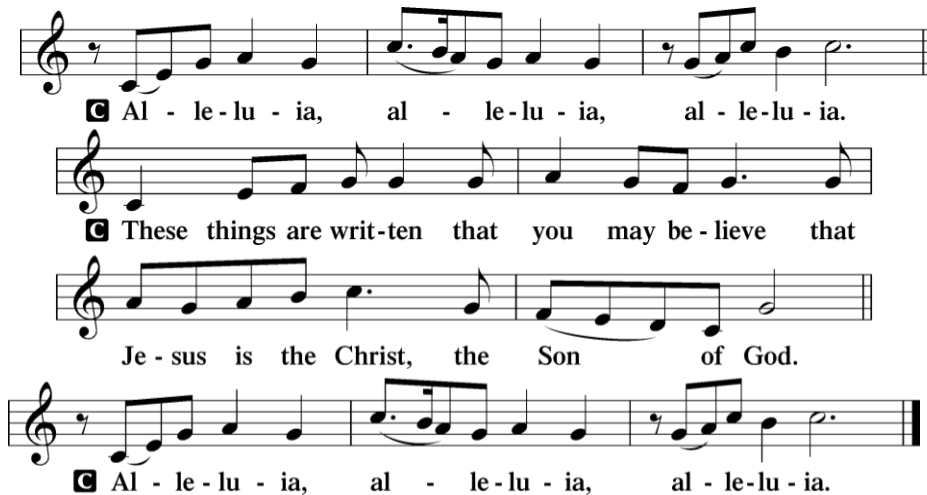
¹² So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

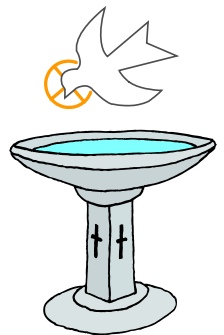
Baptism of Elena Eve Winters

Born: March 14th, 2025

Reborn of Water and the Spirit: March 23rd, 2025

Parents: Kenny & Michaela Winters

Sponsors: Logan & Abby Gerbitz



Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

C 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 sits 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 of the Day: "Before the Throne of God Above"

CW21 561

1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of the guilt with -
3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less right - eous -

plea; a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, up - ward I look and see him there who made an end of all my
ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of

me. My name is grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. At one with him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his

heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Text: Charlie Lees DeCheney Bancroft, 1841–1923

Music: Vikki Cook, b. 1960

Text: public domain

Music: © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP) (adm. at CapitolCMGPublishing.com)

Sermon Text: Luke 13:1-9 (EHV)

At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.² He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things?³ I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem?⁵ I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.”

⁶ He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any.⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?’⁸ But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it.⁹ If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’”

Sermon Theme: Jesus Calls Us to “Repent!”

1. Listen

✝ When we see natural disasters, war, and tragedy in our world, is God sending us a "message?" If so, what is that message? **(v. 5)**

✝ "Repent / Repentance" means: _____.

2. Bear Fruit

✝ What do the various "characters" in Jesus' parable represent? **(v. 6-9)**

The owner of the vineyard –

The gardener –

The vineyard –

The fig tree –

✝ What lesson(s) can we learn from Jesus' parable of the fig tree?

What comfort can we gain from this parable?

Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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Sermon Hymn: 614 "As Surely As I Live," God Said (please stand for last verse) LSB 614

Offering We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

Prayer of the Church We bring our prayers to God.

Benediction The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 544 O Love, How Deep (please stand for last verse)

LSB 544

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today:
3/23/25

Choir Practice – 8am
Worship w/ Baptism (Elena Winters) – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

This Week:

Tuesday – **Ladies Group – 6:30pm**
Wednesday – **Wednesday Lent Worship #4 – 6:30pm**
(Preaching: Pastor Andy Schaller – Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac)
Thursday – **Church Council – 6pm**
Church Cleaning: Team #10 (3/22-3/28); Team #1 (3/29-4/4)

Next Sunday: **Choir – 8am**
3/30/24 Worship – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am
Sunday School Teachers Meeting – 11:15am



Reminder: Our members are encouraged to keep the last two pews reserved for families with small children. Thank you!

Easter Brunch Sign-Up Sheets – Sunday, April 20th –

Sign-up sheets for food donations and for men to volunteer for cooking and serving are on the cupboard doors in the entryway. Easter Sunday is **April 20th**.



Activity Group Meeting to Plan for Easter Brunch – Sun, April 6th

Activity Group #1 is asked to meet after the worship service on **Sunday, April 6th** to discuss plans for the Easter Brunch.

Wednesday Lent Worship Services – March 5th – April 9th - 6:30pm -



Our Wednesday Lent series for this year is entitled, “The Hand of the Lord.” This expression is used throughout the Old Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has come down to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

Please make plans to join us for these special worship services that focus on our Savior who stretched out His hands on the cross to save us from our sins. Our Wednesday Lent worship services begin this week with our Ash Wednesday communion worship service at 6:30pm. During this Lenten series we will also be having four other area CLC pastors guest preaching here at Messiah during the middle four Wednesdays of the Lenten season. (See display on bulletin board in entryway.) May our Savior bless our Lenten meditations and worship service as we look forward to once again celebrating His triumph over the grave on Easter Sunday.

Pastoral “Get to Know Each Other” Visits / Pastor Luke’s Contact Info –I am continuing to make “face to face” visits with our members. These include a short devotion and some time to get to know each other. Wherever is most convenient and comfortable for you will work just fine for me (my office, your home, a coffee shop, etc.). Feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone call if you know of a day and time that will work for you. If I don’t hear from you, rest assured, I will be contacting you! I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each other better soon! In Christ, Pastor Luke

Pastor’s Contact Info

Email: LBernthal@messiahhc.org ☎ Cell: **402-389-2147** ☎ Church Office: **414-427-9337**

CLC Call News - Grace Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN, has **called** Mrs. Vanessa Wales and Mrs. Danielle Sippert to teach language arts and other courses for the 2025-2026 school year to replace Mrs. Debra Mayhew whose call will expire at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has **returned** the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has **accepted** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD.

Immanuel High School Visitors Day – May 2nd - Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI will host their annual High School Visitors Day on Friday, May 2, 2025 for students grades 7 and up. A schedule of events and online registration can be found at www.ilc.edu. Please register students and chaperones by Friday, April 25. A theater performance of *The Worst High School Play in the World* will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. Friday night’s play performance will be livestreamed on Youtube with an unlisted link that will be shared via email. The Immanuel Band will perform before the play on Friday at 7:00 pm, and student talent performances will take place Saturday at 7:00 pm. Performances are free and open to the public. For more information please contact Prof. Joel Gullerud (joel.gullerud@ilc.edu 715-544-8446).

CLC Youth Camp at Pillager, MN - June 8-14, 2025 -

Registration opens **Saturday, March 15th at 10am CST.**

CLC Youth Camp at Pillager is for campers entering grades 6th-12th. Camp runs **June 8-14th, 2025.** For more information please visit our website,

<https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp>,

or contact Amber Casto and Ethan Sydow at

youthcamp.clc@gmail.com.



Bible Readings:	
3/23	Ex. 12:31-51 Psalm 78:36-72 Rom. 9:27-10:4
3/24	Ex. 13 Psalm 79 Rom. 10:5-21
3/25	Ex. 14 Psalm 80 Rom. 11:1-10
3/26	Ex. 15:1-21 Psalm 81 Rom. 11:11-24
3/27	Ex. 15:22-16:16 Psalm 82 Rom. 11:25-36
3/28	Ex. 16:17-36 Psalm 83 Rom. 12
3/29	Ex. 17 Psalm 84 Rom. 13

March Ushers	Cleaning Team 3/29-4/4
Mike Cutler Ethan Gurgel Bryon Nelson Sr.	<u>Team 1</u> K/M Winters A/L Hart P/E Tiefel E. Gurgel M/T Mueller
March Slideshow James Schaser	

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Offering info will be updated next Sunday		
Attendance Last Sun. (3/16): 74		
Wed. Lent #2 (3/12): 63		
Wed. Lent #3 (3/19): 62		



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