

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel
to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel**
and

Go

with the **Gospel**

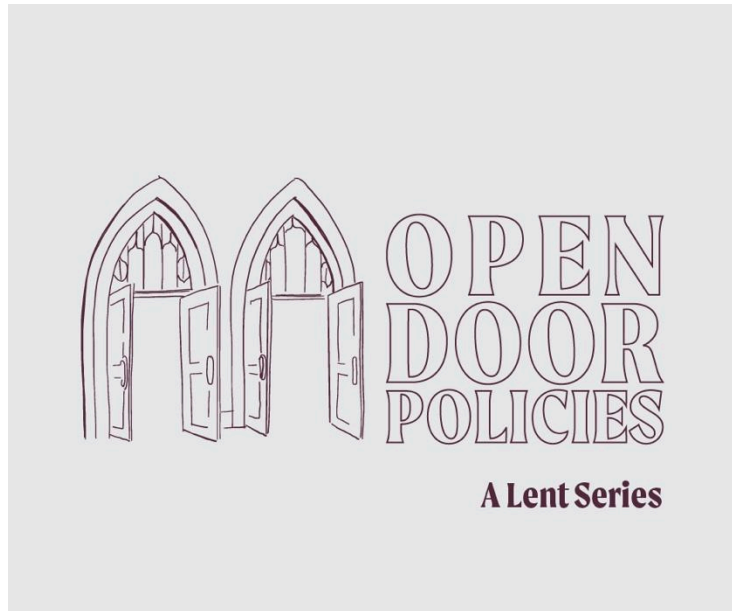
Welcome! We
thank God that you
have joined us at
worship today.

Restrooms
are located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your
children need to
leave worship, please
take them to the
basement. A TV
broadcasts the
service in the
basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He
is present among us
in a special way
through his Word and
Sacrament. We
acknowledge our sin
and rejoice in the
good news of
forgiveness through
the life and death of
Christ. This is the
focus of our worship.

March 23, 2025
3rd Sunday in Lent



Always Present, Always Patient

The heavenly Father is always present in the lives of his children. He sees every sorrow we endure. He also sees every sin that we commit, even if it's only in our thoughts. He is always present. Yet, he is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. He gives us time to see the error of our ways. He assures us that the door back to him remains always open. By giving us room to share our struggles and shortcomings, he works in us the very repentance he desires and saves us from the judgement that would otherwise be ours.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Questions for Personal Preparation for Holy Communion are located on p.16 of this service folder.

Hymn

I Run To Christ CW 333



1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a refuge
sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSIO OF SINS

M: God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Jesus invites you: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28)

C: We have come to the Lord’s house wearied by our work and burdened by our problems.

M: Isaiah said of the Savior: *“A bruised reed He will not break,”* (Isaiah 42:3) and again: *“He was bruised for our iniquities...by His wounds we are healed.”* (Isaiah 53:5)

C: We have come bruised by the actions of others and bruised by our repeated falls into sin.

M: Isaiah says that God the Father sent Jesus *“to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives...to comfort all who mourn.”* (Isaiah 61:1-2)

C: We come broken in spirit because we cannot pay for our wrongs, broken in heart because we long for the peace of forgiveness.

2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -
fished. “Come un - to me,” he calls thro’ strife; fa - tigue gives
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
find a might - y arm. “The dev - il flees,” the
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Because of Jesus' atoning work, God assures us in the Bible:

C: ***“As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”*** (Psalm 103:12)

M: He says, *“I will forgive their wickedness and I will remember their sins no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:24)

C: ***“The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”*** (1 John 2:7)

M: Our Lord sent his Son, Jesus, to the cross for our salvation. Our God truly has compassion on us with his unending forgiveness. Jesus paid the price for your sins as he proclaimed, “It is finished.” You have been released from the guilt of your sins, restored in your relationship with the Almighty and renewed to live a new and holy life unto the Lord. You are forgiven in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God for his mercy and love!**

3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -
cape. “De - liv - er me,” I cry to him; temp - ta - tion
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and
find my one de - fense. “I bore God’s wrath,” he
pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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Prayer of the Day

M: 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson

Exodus 3:1-15

The Lord reveals his presence to Moses as flames within a bush—fire that warms and gives light yet does not consume.

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹²And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85A

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;
he promises peace to his / people.

Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Second Lesson

Corinthians 10:1-13

God revealed his presence among the nation of Israel. Instead of his presence leading to repentant faith, with a sense of false security the Israelites set their hearts on evil.

¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things 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 got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)



Stand

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

God is always patient, but our time of grace does come to an end at the moment of death. Since that can come at unexpected times, Jesus teaches that the time to repent is right now.

¹Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Delay Not! Delay Not CW 712



1 De - lay not! De - lay not! O sin - ner, draw near!
 2 De - lay not! De - lay not, O sin - ner, to come,
 3 De - lay not! De - lay not! The Spir - it of grace,
 4 De - lay not! De - lay not! Why long - er a - buse



The wa - ters of life are now flow - ing for you.
 for mer - cy still lin - gers and calls you to - day.
 long grieved and re - sist - ed, may take his sad flight
 the love and com - pas - sion of Je - sus, your God?



No price is de - mand - ed, the Sav - ior is here;
 Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
 and leave you in dark - ness to fin - ish your race,
 A foun - tain is o - pened—how can you re - fuse?



re - demp - tion is pur - chased, God's prom - ise is true.
its mes - sage, un - heed - ed, will soon pass a - way.
to sink in the gloom of e - ter - ni - ty's night.
Come, wash and be cleansed in his par - don - ing blood.

Text: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, alt.
Tune: Welsh, 17th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 13:1-9

Stand

Create in Me



C: 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 your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

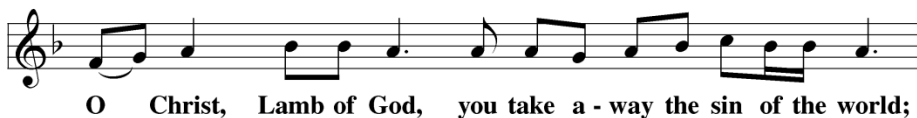
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O Christ, Lamb of God



Be Seated

Distribution

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Distribution Hymn

In the Hour of Trial CW 406



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
 2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm
 3 Should your mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,
 4 When my life is end - ing, though in grief or pain,



lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
 or its tempt - ing trea - sures spread to work me harm,
 or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,
 when my bod - y chang - es back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, with a look re - call,
 bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne
 grant that I may nev - er fail your cross to view;
 on your truth re - ly - ing, through that mor - tal strife,



nor for fear or fa - vor ev - er let me fall.
 or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross - crowned Cal - va - ry.
 grant that I may ev - er cast my care on you.
 Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, to e - ter - nal life.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
 Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876
 Text and tune: Public domain

THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CW 923



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



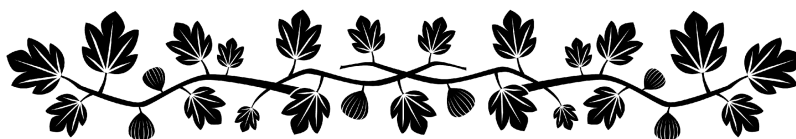
more, feed me till I want no more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–1791

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

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PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

