

Second Sunday of Lent: March 16 and 17, 2025

Welcome! We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Printed copies of the sermon are available on the tract desk.
- Large Print Service binders can be found on the tract desk.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255- 258 in the hymnal.
- For a personal preparation for Holy Communion, please see pages 295-296 in your hymnal.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on

YouTube.www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

Our Lord teaches in his Word that in Communion we receive Jesus' true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, and that participation is also a declaration that we believe what our fellow communicants believe. In obedience to God's Word, then, we ask that only those who agree on all points of

teaching—those who belong to a WELS or ELS church—and are confirmed partake in the Lord’s Supper today. If you are not a member of a WELS or ELS church but would like to pursue that unity of faith, or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor.

Setting 3, pg. 188

Upcoming Events

Sunday 03/16/2025	9:00 AM Communion Worship 10:15 AM Bible Class 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Choir Practice
Monday 03/17/2025	10:00 AM Pastor’s Circuit Meet At St. Luke’s 7:00 PM Communion Worship
Wed 03/19/2025	6:30 PM Lenten Wed. Service 7:30 PM Ice Cream Social
Sunday 03/23/2025	9:00 AM Worship Service
Monday 03/24/2025	7:00 PM Worship Service

Attendance

Sunday Service: 94, Monday Service: 18, Bible Class: 39,
Sunday School: 10
Lenten Wednesday: 73

Our **Time** to Our Lord

Mrs. Einhardt's Class: Ice Cream Social! Plan to stay after the Mid-Week Lenten service for fellowship and ice cream. A **free will offering** will be gathered to help purchase decodable books for Mrs. Einhardt's library. Decodable books are designed for beginning readers, using simple language and words that align with the phonics skills being learned, and allow them to "decode" or sound out words.

Thank You: The Church Council served up a fantastic cookout prior to Wednesday's Lenten service. Job well done!!! The freewill offering was dedicated to the Torrez family.

Smart Boards: Our school faculty and school board presented the need for technology upgrades in the classrooms at the last voters meeting, starting with the request for 2 smart boards. One for each classroom. Some commitments have already been expressed to Mr. Chappell. Please consider donating to this very worthy expenditure for the school and especially for the children! Speak with our teachers and/or our school board if you have further questions.

SVLC Concert: The *Saginaw Valley Lutheran Chorale* will present a pair of sacred concerts, themed ***The Cross and the Crown***, on Saturday, March 22, 6:30 PM, at Hope Lutheran Church, 1123 W. Walnut Street in St. Charles, and on Sunday, March 23, 3:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 33rd Street in Bay City. The concerts feature choral selections and hymn settings that remind us of Christ's suffering on the cross along with His triumphant victory assuring all believers of a crown of eternal life. A free-will offering will be gathered, supporting the Chorale's *Cantate Deo* grants to MLS graduates. Please plan to attend.

Our **Talents** to Our Lord

March Servers

March Sunday Ushers: Brandon and Jared Frank, Jon Woolworth, Jacob Zieroff

March Communion Elder: Brandon Frank

March Finance: Jeremy LaPratt, Nick Hubbard, Ed Newsome

March Altar Guild: Pat Mecham and Jodi Newcomer

Organist: Olivia Marker

April Servers

April Sunday Ushers: Paul and Silas Schultz, Carter Korthals, Eric Korthals

April Communion Elder: Paul Schultz

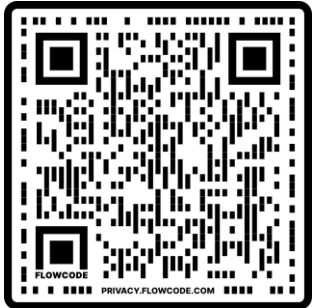
April Monday Elder: David Atkins

April Finance: Gabe Fall, Sam Korthals, Carter Korthals

April Altar Guild: Kerri Hubbard and Jennie LaPratt

Organist: Olivia Marker

Our **Treasures** to Our Lord



Last Week's Budgetary Gifts \$5,428.7

Sunday School: \$13.00

Memorial Donation for Riley Petty: \$100.00

Memorials to the Torrez Family: \$528.00

Bible Purchase: \$23.00

687 If Then You Have Been Raised with Christ

CW 687

The choir will introduce this hymn by singing v 1-2, the congregation will sing v 3

- 1 If then you have been raised with Christ,
look not to earthly things,
for Christ's own death has saved your life
from sin and death's sharp sting.
Set hearts and minds on things above,
on Christ who reigns on high.

In Christ your life will be revealed
and with him you will rise.

- 2 As chosen ones, beloved by God,
put on the clothes of grace:
compassion, kindness, patience, love,
forgiveness in Christ's name.
And may your hearts be filled with peace,
in perfect harmony.
Be thankful as Christ's word takes root;
in him you are set free.

Please stand for the final stanza

- 3 With gratitude for all good gifts
sing psalms and hymns and songs.
In word or deed, do ev'rything
in Christ, whose name is strong.
All glory to the Trinity:
the Father and the Son,
and glory to the Spirit blest.
All praise the Three in One!

Text: Michael D. Costello, b. 1979

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever.**

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us.

He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

***Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

⁸When Jeremiah had finished saying everything the LORD had commanded him to say to all the people, then the priests, the prophets, and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! ⁹Why do you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will be like Shiloh and that this city will be desolate with no one living here?” All the people crowded around Jeremiah in the House of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they came up from the king's house to the House of the LORD and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death because he has been prophesying against this city, as you heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the things that you have heard. ¹³Now reform your ways and your actions, and

obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring about the disaster he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, look, I am in your hands. Do with me whatever seems good and right in your eyes. ¹⁵But you can be certain of this. If you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live here, for it is true that the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

42 Why Does Such Grief Weigh Down My Soul *Psalm 42*

Refrain

Why does such grief weigh down my soul?

Why such despair and pain?

**I hope in God who makes me whole,
and praise him once again.**

As the deer pants for streams of / water,
so my soul pants for / you, my God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the / living God.

When can I go and / meet with God?

My tears have been my food / day and night,
while people say to me all day long, “Where / is your
God?” *Refrain*

These things I re- / member
as I pour / out my soul:
how I used to go to the / house of God
under the protection of the / Mighty One
with shouts of / joy and praise
among the / festive throng.

**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: Christopher Idle

Text: © 1975 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly

things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

¹So then, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way keep standing firm in the Lord, my dear friends.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹In that very hour, some Pharisees came to him and said, “Leave, and go away from here, because Herod wants to kill you.”

³²He said to them, “Go tell that fox, ‘Look, I am going to drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.

³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, because it cannot be that a prophet would be killed outside Jerusalem!’

³⁴“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I have wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you will say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart;
I pray thee, ne'er from me depart,
with tender mercy cheer me.

Earth has no pleasure I would share;
yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
if thou, Lord, wert not near me.

And should my heart for sorrow break,
my trust in thee can nothing shake.

Thou art the portion I have sought;
thy precious blood my soul has bought.

Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and
Lord,
forsake me not! I trust thy Word.

2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich bounty gave
my body, soul, and all I have
in this poor life of labor.

Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
may glorify thy lavish grace
and help and serve my neighbor.

Let no false doctrine me beguile;

let Satan not my soul defile.

Give strength and patience unto me
to bear my cross and follow thee.

Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and
Lord,

in death thy comfort still afford.

3 Lord, let at last thine angels come,
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home
that I may die unfearing;
and in its narrow chamber keep
my body safe in peaceful sleep
until thy reappearing.

And then from death awaken me
that these mine eyes with joy may see,

O Son of God, thy glorious face,
my Savior and my fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer
attend,

and I will praise thee without end.

Text: Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Keep Standing Firm in the Lord

I. Be careful who you imitate (17-19)

II. Look forward to your real home (20-4:1)

(Stand)

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 truly 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 worshiped 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)

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our

confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

THE SACRAMENT

(Stand)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for

the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast.
Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God
our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Words of Institution

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.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

Distribution

(As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:)

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

(As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:)

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go † in peace.

Amen.

668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

CW 668

1 Jesus comes today with healing,
knocking at my door, appealing,
offering pardon, grace, and peace.

He himself makes preparation,
and I hear his invitation:

“Come and taste the blessed feast.”

2 Christ himself, the priest presiding,
yet in bread and wine abiding

in this holy sacrament,

gives the bread of life, once broken,
and the cup, the precious token

of his sacred covenant.

3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,

blood and body, giv'n for me,
very Lamb of God from heaven,
who to bitter death was given,

hung upon the cursed tree.

4 God descends with heav'nly power,
gives himself to me this hour

in this ordinary sign.

On my tongue his pledge receiving,
I accept his grace, believing

that I taste his love divine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
whose own feast of love I savor,
bidden by his gracious call.

Wedding garments he provides me,
with a robe of white he hides me,
fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
comfort in my tribulation,
balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
cleanses me from sin and error,
makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–1858; tr. David W. Rogner, b. 1960

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(Stand)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We

thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

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.

Amen.

942 Create in Me a Clean Heart

CW 942

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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