

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT OCULI

March 7, 2021

Service Notes: **Divine Service Setting Three, page 184**
Hymns: 423, 659, 743, 615, 642, 636, 451, 419
Old Testament Reading: Exodus 8:16-24
Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-9
Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-28
Sermon: "Hearing and Keeping the Word" Luke 11:14-28

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Lenten Service	02/24	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	90 16
Thursday	02/25	7:00 p.m.	36
Sunday	02/28	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	86 36

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing.

MATINS Pastor will be conducting Matins services Tuesday through Friday at 11:00 a.m., which will be livestreamed at the Our Father's Ev. Lutheran Church Facebook page, but are also available on the church website, [ofls.org](https://www.ofls.org). Join us in daily prayer and the Word of God.

THRIVENT MEMBERS This is a reminder to all church and school families who have Thrivent Financial Contracts that Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2020 must be directed by March 31, 2021. You need to log into your Thrivent account information to do this. You have many choices where your choice dollars can be given; but just as a reminder, you can designate these dollars to be given to Our Father's Lutheran Church or Our Father's Lutheran School. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hojnacki at (414) 427-5949.

FRIENDLY REMINDER Please do not use the hymnals for the Lenten services. The entire service is in the bulletin. The hymnals have been cleaned and are ready for Thursday night service.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do "NOT" put the used hymnals on the back two tables against the windows after services, as this is where the "CLEAN" ones are kept. They must go on the table in front of the bulletin board labeled "USED." We have to follow the Health Department Guidelines with regards to safe COVID-19 cleaning. Thank you for following these rules.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	03/07	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class Scrip Orders Due	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Monday	03/08	Elementary Band Concert at Martin Luther High School	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	03/09	Matins	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday	03/10	Matins LENTEN SERVICES	11:00 a.m. 4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	03/11	Matins DIVINE SERVICE	11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Friday	03/12	Matins	11:00 a.m.
Sunday	03/14	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

WE PRAY for Mary Ankerberg, Karen Awe, Mike Bice (brother-in-law of Todd Pfander), Barbara Blue, Kathleen Brook, Janet Brown, Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Sandy Damms, Keith Domagalski, LaVerne Edenfield, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Maynard Georgson, Judy Hanson, Jessica Hetts (niece of Virginia Scholz), Elaine Howe, Michelle Johnson, Delrose Krueger, Clarence Laube, Rhonda Lesniewski, Linda Metzfeld (sister-in-law of Don Metzfeld), Shirley Nelson, Konnie Otto, Ruth Pelican (sister of Virginia Scholz), Angeline Pence, Robert Schneider, Virginia Scholz, and Dave Sievert.

ML SPRING PLAY The Martin Luther Drama Department is performing their spring play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on March 5-6 at 7:00 p.m. and March 7 at 2:00 p.m. You can purchase tickets at the door or call the school office for a ticket order form. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.facebook.com/events/5009486589093306/>

FEEDBACK The elders would like your opinion on changing the Thursday service from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please email or call Dave Felber at davidfelber1@gmail.com or (414) 793-5193. Thank you.

ADOPT-A-BILL PROGRAM list includes: Gas Bill, Electric Bill, Front of Church Landscape, Health Insurance, High School Arrearage, Mortgage, Office Supplies, School Air Conditioner, School Boilers, School Storage Building, and Water Bill. Consider supporting this worthy cause. Envelopes are on the narthex bulletin board.

FINANCIAL REVIEW – YTD TOTAL OFFERINGS

YTD Offerings for Last Year (7/1/19-3/3/20)	\$381,114.69
YTD Offerings for Current Year (7/1/20-3/1/21)	\$395,429.69
YTD Offerings needed to meet Budget	\$399,740.26
YTD Offerings Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$4,310.57)

SCRIP Orders are due today, **March 7**. The next order due date is Sunday, April 11. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are in the narthex and church/school office. Place your order and check made out to Our Father's in one of the boxes, *OR* you may order online with the Presto Pay Plan at www.shopwithscrip.com. The website has a list of participating retailers. All profits are used to help pay staff health insurance. Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

WOODMAN'S GIFT CARDS are available to purchase in the church/school office. All profits go to the Our Father's Scholarship Fund. Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

***OUR FATHER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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THE READINGS AND PSALMODY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT OCULI

March 7, 2021

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 8:16-24 (ESV)

¹⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.' " ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ²⁰Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me." ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth.

²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen." ²⁴And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:1-9 (ESV)

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone

who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:14-28 (ESV)

¹⁴Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,"

¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." ²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 136:1-16 (ESV)

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁴ to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁵ to him who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁶ to him who spread out the earth above the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁷ to him who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁸ the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁰ to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹² with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea in two,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁴ and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁵ but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁶ to him who led his people through the wilderness,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

INTROIT

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.
To you, | O Lord,*
I lift | up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.
The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.
Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.
Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

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.

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15-16

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT OCULI

“Hearing and Keeping the Word”

March 7 through March 13, 2021

Oculi is the word for eyes, as in the Introit we confess, “My eyes are ever toward the Lord.” During Lent and throughout our lives, our eyes are ever to be on the cross and the One who gazes down compassionately from that cross to rescue us from every evil of body and soul. How are our eyes to be fixed upon Christ? Our eyes are often like those of Eve as we look around at temptations and see that it is pleasing to the eye and probably of no harm. Our eyes only see when they are opened and governed by the Word of God. Only when faith is fed by the Word of God do we have eyes that bring light to our entire body. The Word focuses our sight upon Christ crucified, for apart from Him there is no salvation. Our eyes are not to look to our works, our actions, or our behavior to find hope or assurance of our salvation. Such hope and salvation are always in the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in baptism, confession, the preaching of the Gospel, and the Holy Supper. As faith seeks out these gifts, our eyes are ever toward the Lord.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

THE CREED

VERSE: ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. **1 Corinthians 13:7-8a (ESV)**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: 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. **AMEN.**

PSALM OF THE WEEK:

66

PSALMODY PRAYER: O Almighty God whose ears are always more ready to hear than my lips to pray, grant that I may walk on the dry path You have made in the midst of this world's deep waters. As You have drawn me in with the net of Your Word so now refine me with the crosses of this life, affliction and sorrow, that my faith may be strengthened. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Mark 11:1-19
Tuesday	Mark 14:1-11
Wednesday	Mark 14:12-31
Thursday	Mark 14:32-52
Friday	Mark 15:1-15
Saturday	John 6:1-15

CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties

What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. *1 Corinthians 9:14*

Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. *Galatians 6:6-7*

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." *1 Timothy 5:17-18*

Luther, Large Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar (1528): Here, gracious and lovely, stand the words, “This is My body, given FOR YOU,” “This is My blood, shed FOR YOU for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, as I have said, are not addressed to wood or stone, but to me and to you; otherwise, Christ might just as well have remained silent and instituted no sacrament. Therefore, think yourself into, place yourself personally into this “you,” in order that Christ may not speak to you in vain. In the Lord’s Supper, He offers to every one of us the treasure He brought from heaven, a treasure to which He invites us most winsomely also in other passages, as when He says in Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” How truly and tenderly He summons and encourages us for our own highest and greatest good. Therefore, it is surely a sin and a shame that we take such a reluctant attitude toward the Sacrament, neglecting it for such long periods that we become quite cold and hard and lose our delight in it and our love for it. Never regard the Sacrament as something harmful from which to flee, but rather as purely wholesome and soothing therapy that is helpful and life-giving both for the soul and for the body. For if the soul is healed, the body is helped as well. How, then, is it that we act as if the Sacrament were a poison and eating it would kill us?

It is true, of course, that those who despise it and live unchristian lives receive it to their harm and condemnation. Nothing can be good or wholesome for such people, just as when a sick person willfully eats and drinks what the doctor has forbidden. But those who feel their weakness, really want to be rid of it, and desire a remedy, should regard and use the Sacrament as a priceless antidote against the poison that they carry in them. For here in the Sacrament, you receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sins, and His forgiveness contains and brings with it God's grace, God's Spirit, all the gifts of the Spirit, and His protection shielding and sheltering you against death, the devil, and all evil.
(CPH, 1978, p 118-119)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord's Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

OR

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB 823 *"May God Bestow on Us His Grace"* (stanza 1)

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT LAETARE

March 14, 2021
"Bread of Life"

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 610, 743, 823, 718, 625, 635, 774

READINGS

Exodus 16:2-21
Galatians 4:21-31
John 6:1-15

Jesus crosses the Sea with a great crowd of people following Him, just as once they had followed Moses through the Red Sea. Through Moses, God had instituted the Passover feast to mark their deliverance from Egypt; now Jesus gives them food in the wilderness as Moses had long before. Notice the language of Jesus taking the bread, giving thanks, and distributing the loaves is almost identical to the words of the Lord's Supper. This miracle was given as a sign to point us to Jesus—both His work at the cross and His gift in the Supper. This feeding was a sign intended to point us to the realities and benefits of the Supper, but it was not the Supper. The Lord's Supper is the Bread of Life, which is Jesus Himself. One should never try to divide Jesus from His Supper because He says in His Word that it is His body and blood. Faith always trusts in the Word of God. It was the Word of God that fed all 5,000 with bread and fish, and that same Word now feeds us on the Bread of Life. In the Supper, we receive the flesh and blood of Christ which gives life to the sinful world. His flesh and blood was offered up in death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, and distributed to the world through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Lord's Supper, that we might receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation for our very own. Jesus' preaching and His body and blood are not to be separated. The one creates faith and leads to the faithful reception of the other.