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Third Sunday in Lent

*Open Door Policies:
Always Present, Always Patient*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Savior Jesus, hear my prayers and deliver me. Bless me today through your Word and Sacrament. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Our 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. He is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. Instead he assures us that the door to him is always open and graciously gives us time to see the error of our ways and repent.

WORSHIP SERIES: When we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home. The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: "lengthen," when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter Piano/Organ: Abigail Ibisch
Handbell Director: Jessie Wolfe

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Welcome & Introduction

Hymn: In the Hour of Trial

CW 406 sts. 1-3



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,



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 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;



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.

Please stand.

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

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

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

(1 John 1:8-9)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: 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.**

M: 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.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

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.

Be seated.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

The Lord reveals his presence to Moses as flames within a bush—fire that warms and gives light but 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.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

God revealed his presence among the nation of Israel. Instead of repentance, Israel saw that presence in false security and 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. ⁵Ne-

ertheless, 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.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Peter 3:9



Refrain



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance. (**Refrain**)

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

God is always patient, but our time of grace comes to an end when we die. Since we do not know when that will be Jesus teaches that now is the time to repent.

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.’ ”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion

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.

“Trust the Plan”



Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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.

(Sunday) Offertory Music

It is Well with My Soul
Karen Buckwalter

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to. We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

CW 184

The musical score is written on seven staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves form the first line of the hymn, the next two staves form the second line, and the final three staves form the third line. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythm of quarter and eighth notes.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

If you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.

Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW 667



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
 2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined to an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, and in your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion, but you are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing that your true bod - y



and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 ev - 'ry - where and with your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and your blood our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



as wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, we come to
 and though your peo - ple shall not see your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, and there is



you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
 and your maj - es - ty till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 naught you can - not do, for you, Lord, are al - might - y.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand, yet faith this truth embraces:
 your body, Lord, is even now at once in many places.
 I leave to you how this can be; your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.
- 6 Lord, I believe what you have said; help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust, and let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears refreshes me and stills my fears
 and is my priceless treasure.

- 7 Grant that we worthily receive your supper, Lord, our Savior,
and, truly grieving for our sins, may prove by our behavior
that we are thankful for your grace and day by day may run our race,
in holiness increasing.
- 8 For your consoling supper, Lord, be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place the world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be a blessed comfort unto me
when living and when dying.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

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

C: His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for
one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Sunday) Blessing Anthem

Benediction

John Behnke

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious;
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen

Blessing

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.

Hymn: I Run to Christ

CW 833

Cantors will sing the first verse. The congregation may join in verses two and three



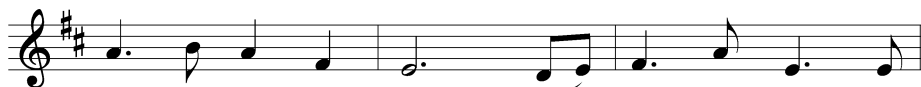
1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref-uge
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re-
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es-



sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives
cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion



wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and



find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the
find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he



gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.
pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult & Teen Bible study meets in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Open Door Policies: Grace Instead of Condemnation

Bible Readings: Isaiah 12:1-6, Romans 8:1-10, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Hymns: 523, 576, 657, 405

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, proudly, 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 I have sinned against God and deserve punishment, what will 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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may**

