



Sexagesima (*about 60 days before Easter*)
Sunday, February 23, A.D 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME! *Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

Visitors, please help us connect with you. Complete the 'Visitor' side of the pew card and send an e-mail to mike.schleider@mtolivemke.org if you have any requests for prayer or questions about our services.

FOR THOSE DESIRING TO COMMUNE TODAY: *We celebrate the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ's true body and true blood. Since reception of the Lord's Supper expresses not only fellowship with the Lord, but also fellowship and agreement with the teaching of this congregation, we follow the Biblical practice of closed communion. Normally, members of congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have been instructed in the faith are welcome to partake, however all guests are kindly asked to speak with a pastor before communing at our altar. For children or others who have not been confirmed, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.*

Prelude

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

584 *Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing*

1 Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.

2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory
Give us ears to hear Your Word.

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C **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.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Isaiah 55:10-13

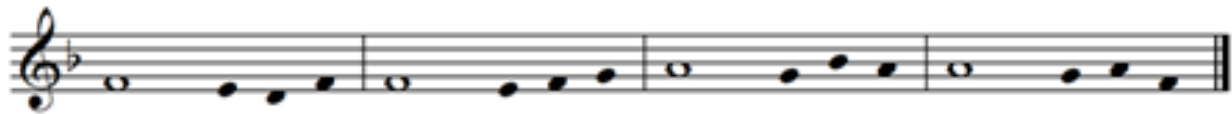
A ¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84



Blessèd are those whose strength | is in you,
in whose heart are the high-| ways to Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer.
As they go through the Val-| ley of Baca
they make it a | place of springs;
the early rain also covers | it with pools.

They go from | strength to strength;
each one appears before | God in Zion.
O Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer;
give ear, O | God of Jacob!

Behold our | shield, O God;
look on the face of | your anointed!
For a day in your | courts is better
than a thousand | elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house | of my God
than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.
For the Lord God is a | sun and shield;
the Lord bestows fa-| vor and honor.

No good thing does | he withhold
from those | who walk uprightly.
O | Lord of hosts,
blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!

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

Hebrews 4:9-13

A ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia & Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Luke 8:4-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

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

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable:

⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

582 *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

- 1 God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

- ☐ **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Reception of Members

Prayer of the Church

P Lord in Your mercy:

C hear our prayer.

Offering

Offertory

C What shall I render to the Lord
for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now
in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation

accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
bread; and for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give
those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

C **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 peace.**

618 *I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: *Refrain*

*Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;

Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

*Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

589 *Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*

1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,
Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to You forever!

2 Oh, what blessing to be near You
And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You,
Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give words of peace and pardon.

3 Lord, Your words are waters living
When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;
On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing!

4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.

652 *Father, We Thank Thee*

1 Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus, Thy Son, to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
Didst give us food for all our days,
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.

2 Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mercy,
Save it from evil, guard it still,
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
Was in this broken bread made one,
So from all lands Thy Church be gathered
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

921 *On What Has Now Been Sown*

- 1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

- 2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

- 3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Postlude

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