



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - *Laetare*
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 – 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME! Thank you for worshiping with us today! Visitors, please help us connect with you. 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.

✠ Preparation & Entrance Rite ✠

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.**

423 *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). Each staff is divided into two sections: 'Solo' and 'All'. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Solo: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. All: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.
- Staff 2: Solo: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. All: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.
- Staff 3: Solo: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. All: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

Kyrie, eleison – Lord, have mercy. *Christe, eleison* – Christ, have mercy.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**



For the sake of your | servant David,
do not turn away the face of your anoint- | ed one.
The Lord swore to David | a sure oath
from which he will | not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body I will set | on your throne.
If your sons keep | my covenant
and my testimonies that I | shall teach them,
their sons also forever shall sit | on your throne.”

For the Lord has | chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwell- | ing place:
“This is my resting | place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have de- | sired it.

I will abundantly bless | her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor | with bread.
Her priests I will clothe | with salvation,
and her saints will | shout for joy.

There I will make a horn to | sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my | anointed.
His enemies I will | clothe with shame,
but on him his | crown will shine.”

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

Acts 2:41-47

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

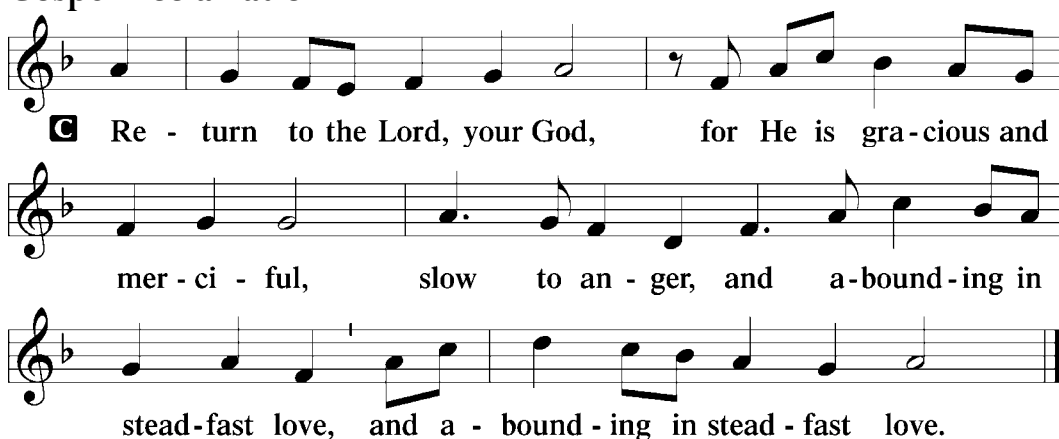
⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

John 6:1-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

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

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the

signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

743 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (Choir sings stanza 4)

Sermon

Nicene Creed

C **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.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord in Your mercy:
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Offering Anthem

Christ the Life of All the Living (See page 15 for notes on this arrangement)

Christ, the life of all the living,

Christ, the death of death, our foe,

Who, Thyself for me once giving

To the darkest depths of woe:

Patiently didst yield Thy breath

But to save my soul from death;

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

*Thou, O Christ, hast taken on Thee
Bitter strokes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God,
Only thus for me to win
Rescue from the bonds of sin;
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.*

*Thou didst bear the smiting only
That it might not fall on me;
Stoodest falsely charged and lonely,
That I might be safe and free;
Comfortless that I might know
Comfort from Thy boundless woe.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.*

*Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.*

*Then, for all that wrought our pardon,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, for Thy
Sorrows, sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,*

Thank Thee with my latest breath
 For Thy sad and cruel death,
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. Amen.

Text: E.C. Homburg, C. Winkworth, Music: Dietrich Buxtehude

Offertory (sung by all)

O Savior Look upon the Tears



1. O_ Sav-ior, look up - on the tears We_ shed in deep-est
 2. O_ Sav-ior, hear our_ anx-ious prayers That min-gle with our
 3. O_ Sav-ior, see our_ bro-ken hearts That suf-fer with each



grief. We_ waste a - way through - out the years, A -
 sighs. We_ bow be-neath our_ weight-y cares As_
 pain. We_ ache with all our_ wound-ed parts As_



wait - ing Your re - lief. Re-mind us, Lord, that You once cried And
 our pe - ti-tions rise. Re-mind us, Lord, that You would call Up-
 hard-ened scars re-main. Re-mind us, Lord, that You en-dured The



wept on Zi - on's road And_ longed to gath - er_
 on Your Fa-ther's ear, And_ e - ven now, You_
 whole world's ag - o - ny So_ our re - new - al_



to Your side All_ with a heav - y load.
 speak for all Who hold Your name most dear.
 is se- cured: From ter - rors soon set free.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

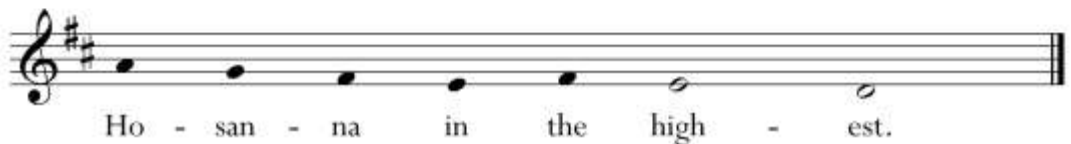
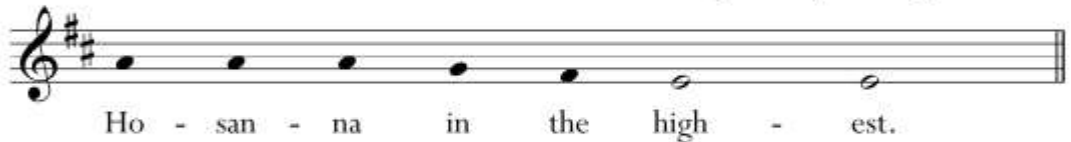
P Lift up your hearts.

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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



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 Lord 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 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 The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,

grant _____ us _____ peace.

625 *Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread*

Communion Anthem

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
 Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
 Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
 Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
 Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

*Where there is charity and love, God is there.
 The love of Christ has gathered us together.
 Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
 Let us revere and love the living God.
 And from a sincere heart let us love one another. Amen.*

Text: Liturgical Text for Holy Thursday; Music: Maurice Duruflé

640 *Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior*

Please stand as you are able.

A Let us pray. (*One of three prayers follows*)

We give thanks to You, almighty God / O God the Father / Gracious God, our heavenly Father ... 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

421 *Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*

Acknowledgments

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Christ the Life of All the Living
BuxWV 62
Dietrich Buxtehude

Sunday's offering anthem is Dietrich Buxtehude's *Jesu Meines Lebens Leben*, which is the Lenten hymn *Christ the Life of All the Living*, LSB420. This a typical Baroque chorale cantata, meaning it is a straightforward presentation of the hymn without additional arias and recitatives interspersed between the chorale (hymn) stanzas that are common in the cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach. Buxtehude scored this cantata for four voices and instruments. Some versions utilized strings and recorder or blockflöte; others included strings and early versions of brass instruments.

Dietrich Buxtehude was the preeminent German-Lutheran composer of the Baroque in the generation preceding Johann Sebastian Bach. Bach in fact travelled by foot from Arnstadt 250 miles to study with Buxtehude in Lübeck where Buxtehude served at the *Marienkirche* (St. Mary's Church; yes, a Lutheran church named after Mary, the Mother of our Lord). Bach had permission from his employer to stay for six weeks; he stayed for three months. Needless to say, Bach had a tense relationship with his employer upon his return. But there was so much for him to learn from Buxtehude he could not help himself. Other composers traveled to meet Buxtehude as well, including Georg Freidrich Handel and lesser known musician Johann Mattheson. In fact the elderly Buxtehude offered his position to both of them with the condition that one of them marry his eldest daughter. Both Handel and Mattheson left Lübeck the next day having declined the offer.