



*Founded 1860*

***Lutheran  
Church  
Missouri  
Synod***

Wednesday  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>

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***God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Psalm 46:1***



# Divine Service: Setting Five

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 213-218

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Church Bell

## OPENING HYMN

*Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*

LSB 421



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly  
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my  
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and  
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,  
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of  
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new  
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me  
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing  
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.  
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from  
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was  
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -  
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing  
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text and tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 213

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM

*Psalm 85*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup>**Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

LSB 420, vs. 5

5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I  
 might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:  
 Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy  
 soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins.

<sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>‘Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### EPISTLE

*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 13:1–9*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

*Renew Me, O Eternal Light*

LSB 704



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my  
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all  
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly  
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those



heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the  
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the  
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be  
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You



light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.  
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.  
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.  
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

*Favorable – Psalm 85*

THE CREED

*We All Believe in One True God*

LSB 953



1 We all be - lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
 2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,  
 3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro - ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;  
 Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;  
 Who sus - tains and com - forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en - folds, All cre - a - tion He up - holds.  
 By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.  
 Bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Create In Me*

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new

a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
 from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB 215

**P** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 218

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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.

CLOSING HYMN

*Christ Be My Leader*

LSB 861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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Tune: Public domain



POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Blessings to you as you worship with us today.*

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, many congregations will not sing *alleluia* during Lenten worship. Lent is a season of repentance rather than rejoicing as we remember Jesus' suffering and death. We save our glad *alleluias* for the joy of Easter morning.

