



*Founded 1860*

***Lutheran  
Church  
Missouri  
Synod***

Wednesday  
March 30<sup>th</sup>

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



Representing God's Love  
To our Congregation,  
Community, and the World

## Divine Service: Setting Five

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

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Church Bell

### OPENING HYMN

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

LSB 556, vs. 1-3



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joi-ce, With ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly  
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my  
gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How  
moth-er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My  
good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!  
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

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  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

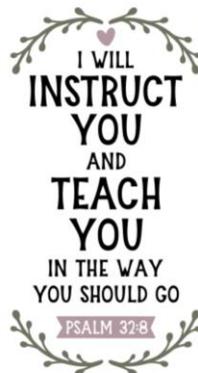
**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM

*Psalm 32*

- <sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.
- <sup>2</sup>**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- <sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup>**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup>**Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.**
- <sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup>**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
- <sup>9</sup>Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.
- <sup>10</sup>**Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
- <sup>11</sup>**Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**



ENTRANCE HYMN

*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

LSB 420, vs. 6

6 Thou hast suf - fered great af - flic - tion And hast borne it  
 pa - tient - ly, E - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion,  
 Ful - ly to a - tone for me; Thou didst choose to  
 be tor - ment - ed That my doom should be pre - vent - ed.

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

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis

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** 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 12*

<sup>1</sup>You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
 for though you were angry with me,  
 your anger turned away,  
 that you might comfort me.

<sup>2</sup>“Behold, God is my salvation;  
 I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
 for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,  
 and he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,  
 call upon his name,  
 make known his deeds among the peoples,  
 proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

*2 Corinthians 5:16–21*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

<sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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

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

SERMON HYMN

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

*LSB 556, vs. 4-6*



4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -  
5 God said to His be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -  
6 The Son o - beyed His Fa - ther's will, Was born of vir - gin



da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for  
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of My crown, And bring to  
moth - er; And God's good plea - sure to ful - fill, He came to



my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He  
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; Slay  
be my broth - er. His roy - al pow'r dis - guised He bore; A



did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.  
bit - ter death for them that they May live with You for - ev - er."  
ser - vant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the dev - il cap - tive.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

*Counselor – Psalm 32*

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

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

LSB 556, vs. 7-10



7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and  
8 "Though he will shed My pre-cious blood, Me of My life be -  
9 "Now to My Fa - ther I de - part, From earth to heav'n as -  
10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and



cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I  
reav - ing, All this I suf - fer for your good; Be stead - fast  
cend - ing, And, heav'n - ly wis - dom to im - part, The Ho - ly  
teach - ing; So shall the king - dom's work be wrought And hon - ored



strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And  
and be - liev - ing. Life will from death the vic - t'ry win; My  
Spir - it send - ing; In trou - ble He will com - fort you And  
in your preach - ing. But watch lest foes with base al - loy The



where I am you may re - main; The foe shall not di - vide us.  
in - no - cence shall bear your sin, And you are blest for - ev - er.  
teach you al - ways to be true And in - to truth shall guide you.  
heav'n - ly trea - sure should de - stroy; This fi - nal word I leave you."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg

Text and 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.*