

Peace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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"Peace Lutheran Church ... Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word."

Our Vision: Equipping Our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work and Play

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025

Divine Service, Setting Three

MORNING MEDITATION WITH PASTOR

A main emphasis of our Lenten journey is the struggle against temptations to sin and toward repentance that leads to living faithful Christian lives. This is a journey that can only truly begin by remembering where it all started, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering what Jesus has done for us gives us the confidence to face the many challenges, difficulties, and failures along the way of the Christian life. Like any person setting out on a journey, we need to make sure to have the proper nourishment. Christ himself nourishes us through his Body and Blood given to us in Holy Communion, in which we are united to his gifts of forgiveness and life. Those who are on a journey also need to make sure they have the proper shelter. The shelter of our journey of repentance is our baptismal life. The baptism of a Christian does not merely describe an action that happened to them in the past. It is something which describes their present reality. A Christian should not say, "I was baptized" but rather, "I am baptized." Our baptism means that God is still working within our hearts building and strengthening the gift of faith which clings to the righteousness of Christ as our salvation. Finally, anyone on a journey needs to be sure they're going in the direction. Our sinfulness often takes down the wrong paths, but the Holy Spirit at work through God's Word serves as our Guide in this life of following Jesus. Our readings for today, while perhaps challenging, encourage us to follow the path which He places before us so that our faith will remain healthy and strong even in the midst of challenge.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The altar is the symbolic location of God's presence in our worship. In the season of Lent, the pastor begins service outside of the altar area, signifying the consequence of our sin, which is separation from God.

OPENING HYMN "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" **LSB 423**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 32*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C whose sin is covered.

P Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
C and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,
C and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

(Silence for personal confession)

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 deserve 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

After hearing the forgiving words of Christ, the pastor now enters the altar area, signifying our entrance into God's presence through the forgiveness that was won for us by the sacrifice of His Son.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE



SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray. O God, You have made each of us Your own possession by our Baptism into Christ, and You daily feed us with Your mercy and grace by Your Word. Help us, we pray, in the face of all trials and temptations to go our own way, to grow stronger in our faith in You and our love for one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 33:7-20
(Ezekiel is Israel's watchman.)

Pew Bible, pg. 856

R This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
(Warning against idolatry)

Pew Bible, pg. 1137

R This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Pew Bible, pg. 1037

(Repent or perish)

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

LSB 685

CREED 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed

P Together we confess our faith using the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P What does it mean to believe in what we just confessed?

G I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

SERMON

Pastor - Jonathan Dueker

OFFERTORY "Create in Me"



G 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.

OFFERING

- You may also give electronically:
 - Visit our web site: www.peacelcms.org
 - Click on the "Give" button or "Ministries" and then on "Online Giving"
- You may also give by text to (989) 308-4203 & then follow the instructions

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, who has mercy upon all, take away from us our sins, and mercifully kindle in us the fire of Your Holy Spirit. Take away from us the heart of stone, and give us a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore You, a heart to delight in You, to follow and to enjoy You, for Christ's sake. Lord, in Your mercy - *Prayer of St Ambrose of Milan, 337-397 AD*

G hear our prayer.

P King of kings, remember in Your mercy the men and women who bear the burden of authority in this land, people like us who are easily bent towards the pressure of temptation and the impact of power. Remember them and strengthen them when they are moved to hide the truth for their own ends and give them courage to instead be servants of it. Bless *Donald* our President and *Gretchen* our Governor as well as all others whom You have given authority to rule. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Lord of Hosts, with Your mighty outstretched arm, we ask that you watch over and protect all of those who serve in vocations that put their life at risk. Be with those serving in our military, especially *Jacob, Dustin, Robert, and Cameron*, as well as those who serve as policemen and firefighters in our communities. Guard them against threats of the body and the soul with Your mighty power. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For those who are sick, for *Ruth, Neil, Ed, Ryan Ruth, Neil, Heather, Scott*, as well as *Sandy, Jenny, Rose, Corey, Peg, Maci, Lisa*, and *Rich*, for all who are injured or suffer in body or soul, grant unto them healing for their bodies, comfort for their souls, and the hope of new life through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, there are many in our community who are in need. In Your divine wisdom, you have placed us here in Rogers City as servants in Your kingdom. While we wait for the day when this kingdom will be realized in full, and all poverty, want, and need will be gone, use us as Your vessels of provision. Use our tithes, our vocations, and our very own lives to care for those around us until the day when all things will be made new in return of Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF CHRIST'S PASSION

(Jesus' cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene)

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**

P Consider how weak and weary Jesus was. At each step He was at the point of expiring. Not wanting him to die along the way, the Romans forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross after Our Lord.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become my disciples, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Let us pray:

C **Beloved Jesus, it was not the weight of the cross but the weight of my sins which made You suffer so much. By the merits of your own suffering save me from the punishment and judgement of my sin. Grant me strength to bear the cross you have placed upon me, that I would embrace it willingly as You did, trusting in the redemption won by Your innocent suffering. Amen.**

P Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me

C **cannot be my disciple.**

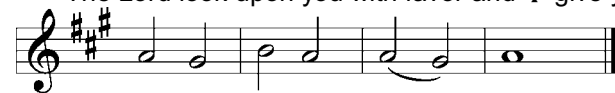
P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,

C **have mercy upon us.**

(Silence for personal reflection)

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

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 **A-men, a-men, a - men.**

CLOSING HYMN "The Day is Surely Drawing Near"

LSB 508

+ in the name of Jesus +

Acknowledgments:

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