

2nd Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023

**OUR**
GREATEST
NEEDS

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's
Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

638 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, who sent his
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, who made th' a -
3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - eous - ness to robe our
4 It is the pow'r of God to save from sin and



Son to save our race, pro - claims how Je - sus
ton - ing sac - ri - fice and calls the souls with
souls in roy - al dress; from all our guilt it
Sa - tan and the grave; it works the faith which



lived and died that we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op - pressed to come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease and gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
firm - ly clings to all the trea - sures which it brings.

- 5 It bears to all the tidings glad
and bids their hearts no more be sad;
the weary, burdened souls it cheers
and banishes their guilty fears.
- 6 May we in faith its message learn
nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
may we in faith its truth confess
and praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Tune: Cantionale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-8 (EHV)

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Get out of your country and away from your relatives and from your father’s house and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you. All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother’s son, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to travel to the land of Canaan. Eventually they arrived in the land of Canaan. ⁶Abram passed through the land until he came to the Oak of Moreh at the place called Shechem. The Canaanites were in the land at that time.

⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

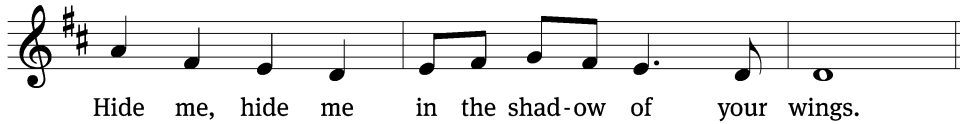
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

121D Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye

Psalm 121D

Refrain



Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—
where does my help / come from?
My help comes / from the LORD,
the maker of heav- / en and earth.
He will not let your / foot slip—
he who watches over you will not / slumber;
indeed, he who watches over / Israel
will neither slum- / ber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—
the LORD is your shade at / your right hand;
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—
he will watch o- / ver your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going
both now and for- / evermore.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (EHV)

What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? ²If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. ³For what does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. ⁵But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness.

¹³Indeed, the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not given to Abraham or his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness that is by faith. ¹⁴To be sure, if people are heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. ¹⁵For law brings wrath. (Where there is no law, there is no transgression.)

¹⁶For this reason, the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham’s descendants—not only to the one who is a descendant by law, but also to the one who has the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

CW 161



Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



The reason the Son of God ap - peared was to destroy the dev - il's work.

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Gospel

John 3:1-17 (EHV)

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! ⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. ⁸The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰“You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? ¹¹Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

A Gift for the World

John 3:1-17

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Be seated

Good News for Kids

Offering

523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

583 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906 Tune: German Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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60th LWMS Convention

Registration is open for the 60th annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society convention. It will be held June 22 - 25, 2023 in La Crosse, WI. The theme for this year's convention is "Peace Like a River". Learn more about the featured speakers, activities, and registration at 60.lwms.org.

THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

March 5 - 12, 2023

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	8:45 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Nuer Worship
	1:30 pm	Kunama Worship
Monday	5:15 pm	Church Council
	7:30 pm	Grand View Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 am	Women's Fellowship Group
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Catechism and Bible History
	7:00 pm	Lent Worship
	8:00 pm	Choir
Saturday	4:00 pm	Game Night
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	8:45am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion
	12:00 pm	Nuer Worship
	1:30 pm	Kunama Worship

Lent Begins

"His Final Steps" ponders the significance of the people and places on Jesus' resolute final steps to the cross and three days later, his first steps from the tomb. Join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

- Mar 8 Lenten Worship (Pastor Neumann)
His Final Steps Led to a Tomb
- Mar 15 Lenten Worship
His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks
- Mar 22 Lenten Worship (Pastor Smith)
His Final Steps Led to His Enemies
- Mar 29 Lenten Worship (Pastor Neumann)
His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Roma Gould and Sherry Just- shut-ins

Makenzie Phippen - health

Morgan Winnekins - expecting in March

Large Print Meditations

A few copies of large print Meditations will soon be available. If you are interested, please let Pastor or Paula know.

Online Giving

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.



www.LHELC.org/giving

Counting Schedule

Mar. 5: Karl & Steve

Mar. 12: Clyde & Greg

Mar. 19: Ashley & Karl

Mar. 25: Cassandra & Leon

March Altar Guild

Christine Pfeifer and Paula Twelmeyer

March Usher Schedule

8:00 am: Clyde Sievers

10:30 am: open

Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, re-view the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-8, John 4:5-26

March Forward in Christ

The March issue of Forward in Christ is available on the shelf outside the sanctuary and at forwardinchrist.net

During the Lenten season, we focus on how Jesus laid down his life for all sinners. Joel Petermann digs into what that statement from John 10:17—"I lay down my life"—entails and also what it means for us as Christians. Read this on page 10.

Andrew Schroer reiterates the fact that Jesus made that choice to lay down his life—his hands weren't tied. See page 32.

Because of what Jesus did for us, we now want to lay down our lives in service to our Savior here on earth. More than 1,300 WELS members gathered together in Chicago in January to learn how better to live as servant leaders in our schools, churches, homes, and communities. See photos and read the article on pages 22-23.

My Christian Life talks about how WELS member Hilde Miller works to serve both the physical and spiritual needs in her community. Look on pages 18-19.