

**Destroy this temple,
and in three days
I will raise it up**

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Plano, Texas**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

3601 W. 15th Street, Plano, Texas 75075

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Our Mission Statement

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

† reaching up to God in worship and prayer,

† reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &

† reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

A Prayer before Worship

Almighty Father, Son, Holy Spirit, eternal ever blessed gracious God; to me the least of saints, to me allow that I may keep a door in paradise. That I may keep even the smallest door, the farthest, the darkest, coldest door, the door that is least used, the stiffest door. If so it be but in Your house, O God, if so it be that I can see Your glory even afar, and hear your voice, O God, and know that I am with You, You, O God. Amen. (Columba of Iona, c. 521-597)

Large Print Bulletin and Children's Bulletin

Copies of today's bulletin are available in LARGE PRINT. Children's Activity Bulletins are also available. Please ask an usher if you would like to use either of these options.

Nursery/Cry Room

The nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. It will not be staffed until further notice. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.

For Those Desiring Holy Communion, Please Read:

"Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." 1Corinthians 11:27-29

Being admonished to receive Christ's Body and Blood in a worthy manner, let us prepare our hearts for reception of this sacrament by privately answering the following:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

AS YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that you believe His Body and Blood are present, and that you desire to serve Him as a disciple in the fellowship of His church. If you are not an active member of an LCMS congregation, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

8:00 AM, 10:45 AM and 12:30 PM

Divine Service II – *LSB 167*

Prelude

Stand

Entrance Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

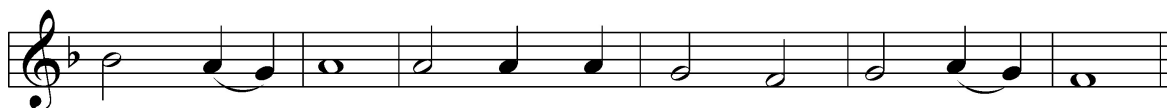
LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

LSB 167

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.

Matthew 28:19b, [18-20]

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.**

1 John 1:8-9

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. *John 20:19-23*
- C** **Amen.**

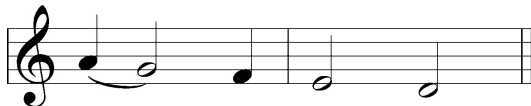
+++Service of the Word+++

Kyrie

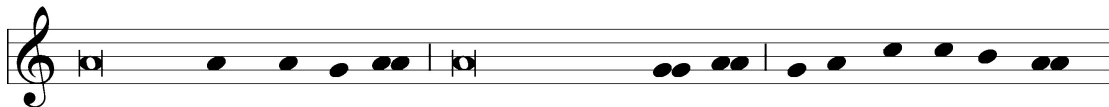
Mark 10:47; LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



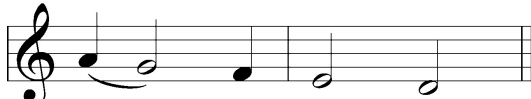
C Lord, have mer - cy.



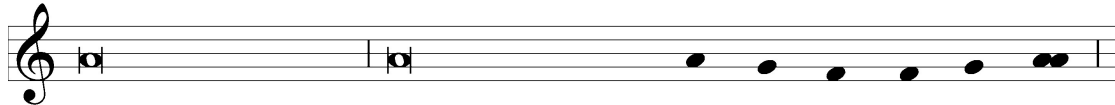
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



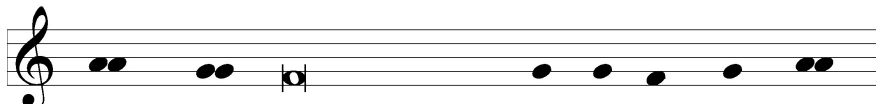
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22; LSB 172

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1–17

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Lenten Verse

Joel 2:13; LSB 173

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.

Holy Gospel

John 2:13–22

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

“May God Bestow on Us His Grace”

LSB 824



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
△ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -



vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,



To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,



health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!



And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -



mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

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Sermon

Stand



Nicene Creed

LSB 174

**☐ 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

Sit

Offering Omitted

(Ordinarily, this is the time to collect our offerings. As we are forgoing passing a plate, baskets have been placed at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also mail your offerings or contribute online from our website's "Giving" link.)

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19; LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

+++Service of the Sacrament+++

Preface

LSB 177




P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.

[Colosians 3:1]



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9, LSB 178



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24

Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; LSB 179

- 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."
- P** 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."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So 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.

Pax Domini

John 20:19; LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Communicants are asked to hold forth their open hand to receive the bread so the elder may discern who is confirmed. Gluten-free wafers are available. Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center circle of individual cups for those who prefer it.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle

“Nunc Dimittis”, LSB 182



C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
 veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 183

- P** Let us pray.
 O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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.

Recessional Hymn

“No Temple Now, No Gift of Price”

LSB 530 sts. 1–2, 4



1 No tem - ple now, no gift of price, No priest - ly round of
2 The dy - ing Lord our ran - som paid, One fi - nal full self -
4 For Christ is ours! With pur - pose true The pil - grim path of



sac - ri - fice, Re - tain their an - cient pow'rs.
of - f'ring made, Com - plete in ev - 'ry part.
faith pur - sue, The road that Je - sus trod;



As shad - ows fade be - fore the sun The day of sac - ri -
His fin - ished sac - ri - fice for sins The cov - e - nant of
Un - til by His pre - vail - ing grace We stand at last be -



fice is done, The day of grace is ours.
grace be - gins, The law with - in the heart.
fore His face, Our Sav - ior and our God.

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Sit

Announcements

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sunday School - Children Age 4 - 5th Grade

Sunday school classes begin at 9:25 in Room 116 for music. At 10:30 parents may pick up 3 year-olds - K from Room 113; and 1st – 5th graders will be dismissed from Room 114.

Jr. & Sr. IMPACT Bible Class

Students meet at 9:30 am with Scott Peters in Room 122.

Adult Bible Class

Adult Bible Class, led by Pastor Shaltanis, meets in the Sanctuary at 9:30ish. This study is over the book of Mark.

Adult Instruction Class

New member adult instruction/confirmation class will be meeting on Sunday afternoons. If you would like a refresher or know someone who is interested in learning more about Lutheran beliefs, please join us this afternoon at 1:30 pm.

Easter Lilies Sign-Up in the Narthex



You may order Easter lilies to adorn the church Easter morning. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate if you would like the lilies “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for” particular individuals or ministries. A suggested donation of **\$12.00** may be placed with offerings or sent to the office with an “**Easter Lily**” notation. Easter lilies may be taken home following the 10:45 am service on Easter morning.

Congregation Outdoor Workday - Saturday, March 27, 9AM - 2PM

Bring your gloves and yard tools to help get our church grounds looking good for Easter Sunday! Projects include planting new shrubs, flowers, and ground cover, spreading mulch, laying new grass sod, tree trimming, trimming hedges, and filling low spots around the church yard. Lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or sign up online at: www.planolutheran.com/signup/

THRIVENT MEMBERS: 2020 Choice Dollars Expire on March 31, 2021

Lord of Life has received thousands of Thrivent Choice Dollars from our Thrivent members over the last few years. These funds, unless directed otherwise, are deposited in our Endowment Fund. The deadline is approaching for directing your 2020 dollars. Once again, there are two ways to direct your dollars to Lord of Life: 1) On-line at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or 2) by phone at 800-847-4836 and say "thrivent choice" at the prompt. These grant dollars are awarded to Thrivent benefit members who can direct them to the church or charity of their choice. At Lord of Life, these dollars will play an important part in the future of our church and its ministries. If questions arise, see Dave Peters.

Running to Lexington

A highlight of the LWML convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24–27, 2021, will be keynote speaker Linda Reiser, LWML President from 2003–2007. She witnessed firsthand the amazing mite donations from women across the nation, making an eternal difference throughout the world. Come and see how you can serve our neighbors through witness and mission. We will be “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus.”

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Abortion occupies an entire business industry. Assisted suicide is driven by financial considerations. And Jesus objects to nothing more strongly than making life and death a matter of commerce (John 2:15-16). He sacrificed Himself instead (John 2:19) so that “you shall not kill” (Exodus 20:13). Why? Because Almighty God chose the lowly for His own (1 Corinthians 1:28-30)—unborn, aged, impaired, even you and me.

This week on KFUE.org

Begin the book of Philippians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), hear Midweek Lenten service and organ recital on 3/10 at 11:00 a.m. CT, and hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (3/9 at 2:00 p.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Serving Our Worship Today:

Pastor:

Organist:

Altar Guild:

Elder:

Pastor Joel Shaltanis

Victoria Frinsko

Lynda Abbott, Laurie George

Kathy Hite, Nevelle Vess

Mike Kunschke

This Week at Lord of Life-Today, March 7, 2021

8:00 am Early Worship Service
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
(4yrs-5th Gr, Room 113)
Jr. & Sr. IMPACT Class (Room 122)
Adult Bible Class (Sanctuary)
10:45 am Late Worship Service
12:30 pm Masked Worship Service
1:30 pm New Member Class

Tuesday, March 9

7:00 pm Elders

Wednesday, March 10

7:00 pm Lenten Worship Service

Next Sunday's Readings March 14, 2021

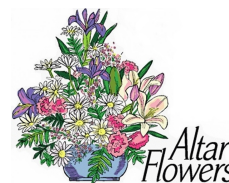
Old Testament: Num. 21:4-9

Epistle: Eph. 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Tom and Carol Read in celebration of their 42nd anniversary on March 10; and by Mark and Carrie Ziegelbein in celebration of Sam's birthday on March 3.



DAYLIGHT
SAVING
TIME

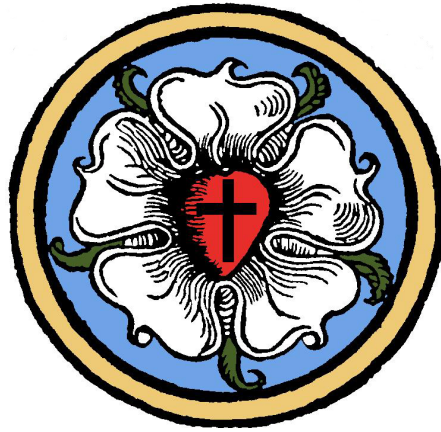
Spring
FORWARD

*****Next Week:** Daylight saving time begins next Sunday. Don't forget to set your clocks forward Saturday night and to not miss the service you were trying to attend!



Lent

About the Cover: When Jesus spoke of the temple being razed, no one understood that He was speaking of His own body. Instead, they had their eyes set on the temporary temple in Jerusalem. However, the temple of Jesus' body was razed on the cross for the sins of the whole world and then raised three days later on Easter morning. Praise be to God that Jesus was raised for our justification. He turns our eyes from the temporal things of this world to the eternal things of God!



Luther's Seal

“Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. **The first should be a black cross in a heart**, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. ‘For one who believes from the heart will be justified’ (Romans 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. ‘The just shall live by faith’ (Romans 1:17) but by faith in the Crucified. **Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose**, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). **Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field**, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. **And around this field is a golden ring**, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has not end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal.

May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.”

Luther interprets his seal in a July 8, 1530 letter to Lazarus Spengler.