

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

“Cross” Purpose  
February 25 & 26, 2023  
5:00pm & 8:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

“X marks the spot” is a reminder that a cross, whether on a treasure map or on a police investigation site outline, has a special meaning. It indicates what is at the center and is of greatest importance. In the Small Catechism, Dr. Martin Luther directs Christian people to make the sign of the cross to begin their day, as he writes, “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross” (LSB, p. 327). He commends the same sacred action at the close of the day, writing, “In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross” (LSB, p. 327). The purpose of making the sign of the cross, whether at home or in conjunction with our worship, is to indicate that all our lives are marked by the redeeming action of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for us and for our salvation. It is a most blessed sign!

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

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.  
Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land. Psalm 85:8-9.

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o'er taken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,  
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won'  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

People: **from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.**

Pastor: Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;

People: **let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!**

Pastor: Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,

People: **and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.**

Pastor: Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

People: **my salvation and my God.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**People: Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we are sinful people. We have inherited the legacy of original sin from our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed you in Eden. We are by nature sinful and unclean. In our daily lives we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of your holy name.**

Pastor: God is gracious and forgiving. He has shown His merciful power in ways that renew, restore, and heal. To those who come to Him with repentant and contrite hearts, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. 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. As you believe, so may it be.

**People: Amen.**

### **HYMN #434 “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”**

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:  
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of your Church that following our Savior and taking up our cross, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

### ✠ WORD ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 3:1–21* (The fall into sin of Adam and Eve)  
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”<sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”<sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived

me, and I ate.”<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.”<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.”<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 5:12–19* (The life-giving work of Christ is for our justification.)<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.<sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.<sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.<sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.<sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## 8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM

“10,000 Reasons”

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 4:1–11* (Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple<sup>6</sup> and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.<sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### **“Praise Him, Praise Him”**

Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love,  
Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love.

Love Him, love Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love,  
Love Him, love Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love.

Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love,  
Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love,

### **SERMON HYMN #425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

### **SERMON “Passed on From Generation to Generation” Romans 5:12-19**

(Rise)

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

(Be seated)

### **“CROSS” REFERENCE**

Pastor: There are numerous references to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Lutheran Confessions. These documents present the truth of our faith in Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice for sin that brings us reconciliation with God for time and eternity. In the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, a document that expresses the beliefs of Lutherans, it is written, “In the Old Testament, sacrifices did not merit reconciliation, except as a picture (for they merited civil reconciliation), but they illustrated the coming sacrifice. This means that Christ is the only sacrifice applied on behalf of the sins of others. Therefore, in the New Testament, no sacrifice is left to be applied for the sins of others, except the one sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.” The cross of Jesus Christ is frequently called “the tree” in Lenten hymns—as it is in “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted.” This classic Passiontide hymn, written in Ireland by writer Thomas Kelly in the nineteenth century, underscores the theme of the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. We sing as the offerings are gathered:

### **HYMN DURING OFFERING #451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”**

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!  
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis He, ‘tis He!  
‘Tis the long expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His!  
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;  
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, you sought Adam and Eve in the garden and called them to confess and repent of their sin.

**People: Seek us when we wander from your Holy Word, and give us contrite hearts to confess our sins and receive the forgiveness and restoration you promise us.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, your Son trampled the serpent underfoot and freed us from sin and death by His own death on the cross. Protect and preserve all pastors and missionaries called to preach Christ and Him crucified.

**People: Give us ears to hear their preaching and teaching and follow your ways. Bless especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family. Command your angels to guard them in all their ways and bear them up for the sake of Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we rejoice to sing your praise, teaching and admonishing one another in the wisdom of your Word. Bless us as we seek to call a Director of Parish Music.

**People: Hear our prayers for your provision and guide and direct your servants according to your will.**

Pastor: O Lord, you created the home as the place where we are brought up in the ways of truth, goodness and mercy. Equip and empower parents in their sacred duty to raise their children in the faith.

**People: Grant that our homes would be places of confession and forgiveness of sins which leads to peace and harmony.**

Pastor: O Lord, you have established earthly authorities to punish evil and praise those who do good. Endow them by your Spirit to have wisdom and guidance as they lead the nations.

**People: Grant our rulers to have humble hearts, to resist the allure of power, to serve the common good, and to worship You alone.**

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to suffer temptation for our sake. He overcame the evil one by the power of your Word.

**People: Strengthen us when we are tempted, and teach us to rely upon your Word as our defense against the evil one, trusting always in your mercy and grace to lead us.**

Pastor: Almighty God, send your holy angels to protect and keep us in your ways, that no evil may befall us. Graciously behold the needy, the sick and the troubled especially Gloria, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Vern, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, Debbie, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them patience and perseverance and bring healing according to your will.

**People: Satisfy us all with long life, and show us your salvation.**

Pastor: Almighty God, you covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of the shedding of your Son's blood by which we are cleansed and clothed.

**People: Give us the garments of repentance and faith, that we may receive your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.**

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have given us a refuge from the world in the Body of Christ. Protect us from all evils of body and soul, that we would find rest in this life and eternal rest in your heavenly embrace; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #420 “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,

Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:

Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit,

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;

Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!

Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;

Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;

Yes, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn

And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.

All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,

That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav’nly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free;

Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;

Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,

Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;

Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore.

For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,

Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,

For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

HYMN #437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov’reign die?

Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in

When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures’ sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,

Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay The debt of love I owe;

Here, Lord, I give myself away: ‘Tis all that I can do.

HYMN #424 “O Christ, You Walked the Road”

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.

You faced with us temptation’s pow’r And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung’ring hearts.

Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.

Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.  
O Christ, you walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour To fight our ancient foe.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you, heavenly Father and King eternal, for you have once again fed and nourished us at your Table through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Strengthen us through this gracious Meal that we may live with purpose, confidently resist temptation, and through acts of mercy share your blessings. Support us in this life, and bring us at last to the unending feast in your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN #543 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!  
  
When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and o the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Elisabeth Matusewic, Debbie Nier  
Olivia Kukor

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