



Offerings collected during our Midweek Lenten services will go to Lutheran Senior Care Ministry. LSCM was started in 1924 to provide a Word and Worship ministry to people living in nursing homes, assisted living centers, and adult day care services in the greater Fort Wayne area. Approximately 600 residents from care facilities gather for worship led by LSCM chaplains each week. Their worship includes hymn singing, scripture readings, prayers, a sermon, and a benediction. LSCM is funded by local Lutheran congregations. We are blessed to be able to support this program which in turn blesses so many!

Offerings collected above what we pledged to Lutheran Senior Care Ministry will go to Emanuel's Endowment fund for Lutheran Higher Education.

THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer

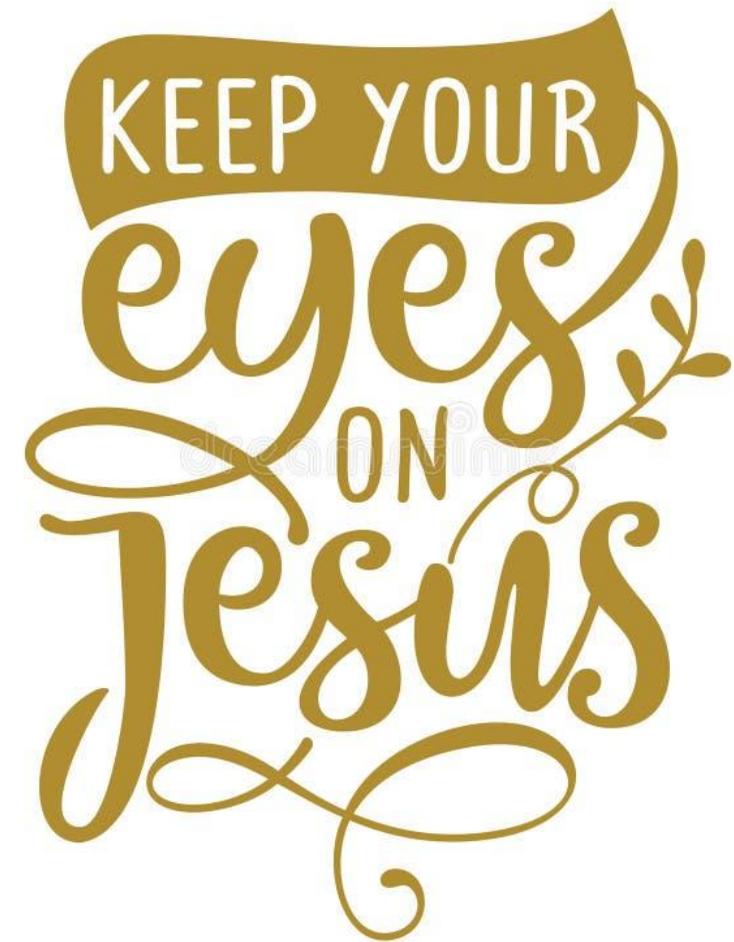
Organist: Doug Reynolds

Acolytes: Luke Melcher, Sophia Russell (7:00)

Elder: Dennis Herman (10:30)

John Colter (7:00)

Ushers: Group 5 (Mike Schultz) (7:00)

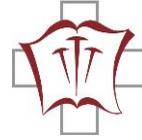


***Lenten Midweek
March 25, 2026***



Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus

Service of Prayer and Preaching ~ Page 260



WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord's Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

AS WE GATHER ~ The Old Testament heroes who ran faith's course successfully can encourage but not strengthen us. For ongoing strength and stamina, we need to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Again, the author uses the present tense in the Greek to remind us to keep fixing our eyes on Jesus. Note also the use of the personal name "Jesus." He's the one who became flesh to furnish our salvation. He's the one who authors, continues, and brings our faith to perfection in heaven. From A to Z He is both the object and the cause of our faith, giving us something to believe in and the faith to do so. So, Keep Fixing your Eyes on Jesus.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* **LSB 427**
In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

OPENING VERSICLES ~ Page 260 ↑

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;
People: let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
People: the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

Pastor: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
People: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. (Joel 2:13)

2

Pastor: Jesus said: if any man would come after Me,
People: let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. (Matthew 16:24)

Pastor: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
People: He was bruised for our iniquities. (Isaiah 53:5)

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
People: the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

♪ OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE ~ Page 261-262 ↑ (Isaiah 12:2b-6)

Refrain: **The Lord God is my strength and my song,**
and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.
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."

Refrain

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;
Let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain*

† READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE †

EPISTLE READING ↓ **Hebrews 11:1-2, 12:1-2 (ESV)**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
²For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING ↑ *Jesus Walks on the Water* **Matthew 14:22-33 (ESV)**

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY ~ Page 263 ↑

(1 John 2:1; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1)

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

† CATECHISM †

TEN COMMANDMENTS

(Exodus 20:2-17)

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

♪ **HYMN OF THE DAY** ↓

Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses

LSB 667

Saints, see the cloud of witnesses surround us;

**Their lives of faith encourage and astound us.
Hear how the Master praised their faith so fervent: “Well done, My servant!”**

**These saints of old received God’s commendation;
They lived as pilgrim-heirs of His salvation.
Through faith they conquered flame and sword and gallows, God’s name to hallow.**

**They call to us, “Your timid footsteps lengthen;
Throw off sin’s weight, your halting weakness strengthen.
We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were martyred: our lives we bartered.”**

**Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suffered,
He faced the cross, His sinless life He offered;
He scorned the shame, He died, our death enduring, our hope securing.**

**Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us – with grace precede us.**

**You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!
Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;
Past, present, future - You, the same forever – You fail us never!**

SERMON ↓

Eyes on Jesus – Always!

♪ HYMN ↓

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

**On my heart imprint Your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me, is my life, my hope’s foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ↓

PRAYER ~ Page 265 ↑

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY ~ Page 265 ↑

Pastor: 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 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.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD ~ Page 265 ↑

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER ~ Page 266 ↑ (10:30)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER ~ Page 266 ↑ (7:00)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING ~ Page 267 ↑

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Psalm 103:1)

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

♪ CLOSING HYMN ↑

Abide with Me

LSB 878

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;

Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

POSTLUDE