



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

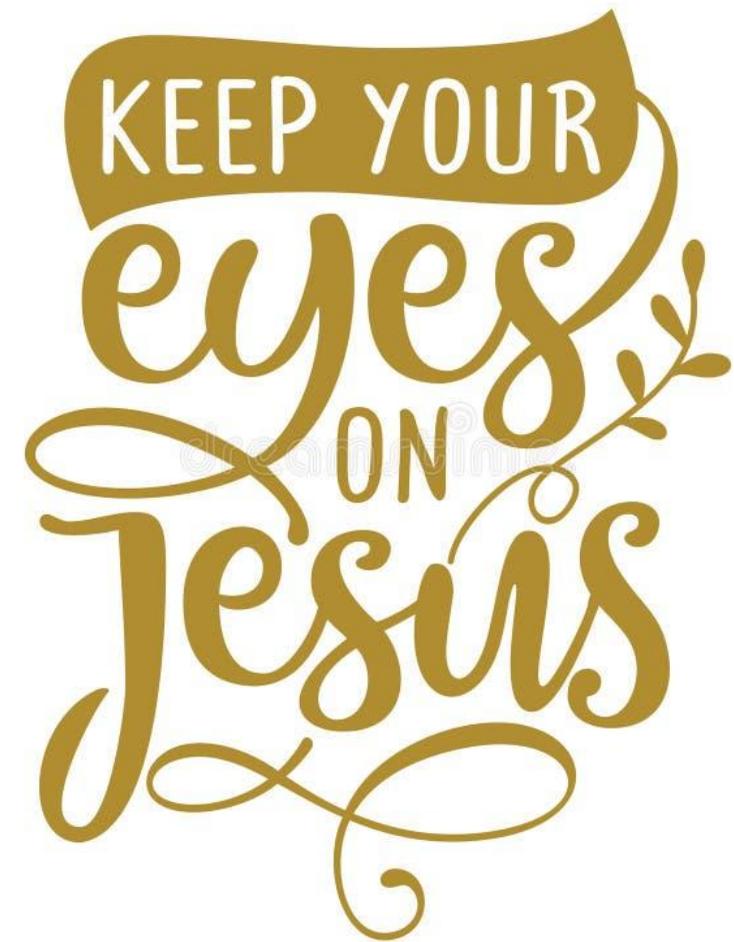
Organist: Lynne Eifert

Acolytes: Hazel Schmidt, Brooke Schorey (7:00)

Elder: Dennis Herman (10:30)

Wade Benjamin (7:00)

Ushers: Group 1 (Sam Bender) (7:00)

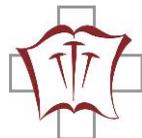


*Lenten Midweek  
February 25, 2026*



# 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 next stop in the Hall of Faith is Abraham and his family. Abraham, the father of the faithful, was given promises of being made into a great nation, being blessed by God and through Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed. Abraham did not see those promises fulfilled but he still believed they would be fulfilled. "By faith" Abraham obeyed God's callings. Abraham is a wonderful example for us to follow. Abraham kept his eyes on Jesus. May we keep our eyes on Jesus.

**PRELUDE** *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (Walther)*

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* **LSB 440**

**Jesus, I will ponder now on Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow for such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish  
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.**

**Make me see Your great distress, anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness and Your crucifixion:  
Make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound You,  
How for them You died, O God, who with thorns had crowned You.**

**Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see Your passion,  
But its cause to me make known and its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin wrought Your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been of Your crucifixion.**

**Grant that I Your passion view with repentant grieving,  
Let me not bring shame to You by unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son suffered without measure?**

**If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm; peace of conscience give me.**

**Help me see forgiveness won by Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!**

**Graciously my faith renew; help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You, peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above sing Your praise forever.**

## 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)

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 †

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** ↓ *The Sacrifice of Isaac* **Genesis 22:1-10 (ESV)**

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”<sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”<sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.<sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.<sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”<sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.<sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”<sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.<sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING** ↓ **Hebrews 11:8-22; 12:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.<sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.<sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.<sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.<sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.<sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.<sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.<sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,<sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”<sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.<sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.<sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.<sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

*Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith*

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,<sup>2</sup>looking 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 Again Foretells His Death* **Luke 9:43b-45, 51 (ESV)**

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples,<sup>44</sup>“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”<sup>45</sup>But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

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 (1, 2, 6) 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.

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 – Abraham, Sarah, Isaac*

♪ 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 ↑ (10:30)**

**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* (verses 1, 2, 6)

**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.**

**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**

*Christ, Mighty Savior* (Johnson)