



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

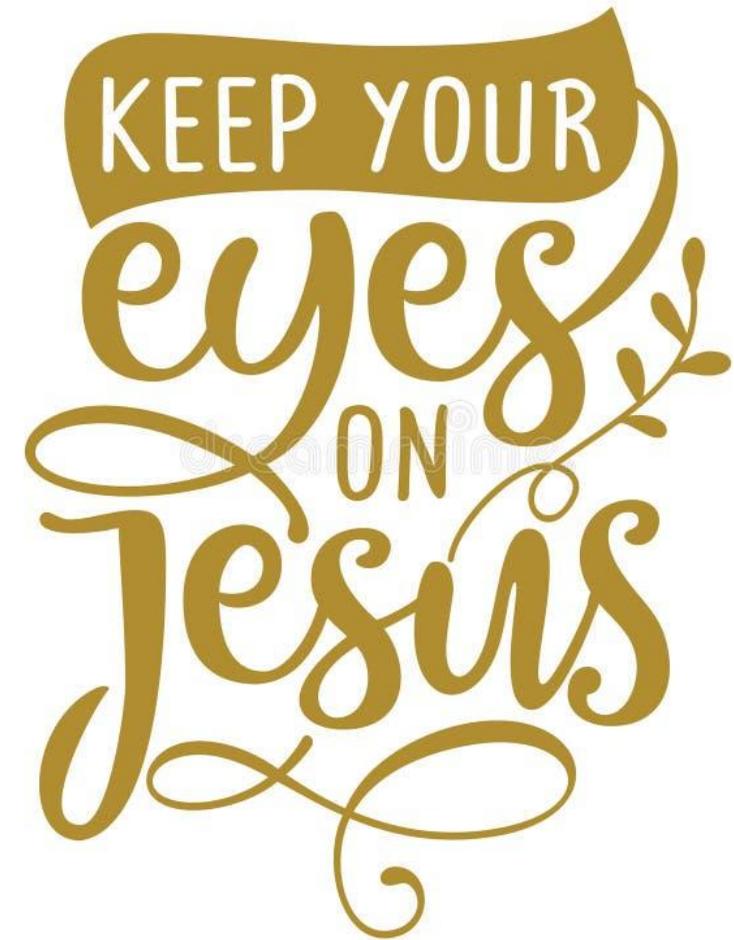
Choir: CLS Cherubim Choir (10:30)

Acolytes: Coltyn Richeson, Insley Dommer (7:00)

Elder: Dennis Herman (10:30)

Paul Niccum (7:00)

Ushers: Group 6 (Don Lambert) (7:00)



*Lenten Midweek
March 18, 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 ~ In our tour through the hall of faith, the author, by giving name and example, has drawn attention to many ancient believers. Their inclusion on the pages of the Old Testament shows God's approval of their faith. Their striking examples stand for us, showing how God, when He works faith, moves ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Yet one thing was missing for all these heroes of faith mentioned. They had received and seen fulfilled many promises from God, but Christ's coming to the cross and his coming on the Last Day had not occurred during their lifetimes. Only from a distance with faith's telescope did they see these events.

This delay was for us! God's goal in keeping those Old Testament heroes of faith waiting for the final fulfillment of his promises was that we might join their ranks. God still delays so that "many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven," as Jesus pointed out in Matthew 8:11. As we wait for the last promised fulfilled, let us keep our eyes on Jesus.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth* **LSB 438**

**A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, the guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth, none else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, to slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer, He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies, "All this I gladly suffer."**

**This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, the Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send to gain for us His favor.
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said, "And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation. The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share the fruit of Your salvation."**

**"Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I'll bear what You command Me.
My will conforms to Your decree, I'll do what You have asked Me."
O wondrous Love, what have You done! The Father offers up His Son,
Desiring our salvation. O Love, how strong You are to save!
You lay the One into the grave who built the earth's foundation.**

**Lord, when Your glory I shall see and taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be, my joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride shall we be brought to stand in joy beside You.**

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 †

EPISTLE READING ↓

Hebrews 11:32-12:2 (ESV)

³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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, 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.

ANTHEM ↓

(10:30) O Come and Mourn (Hopson)

O come and mourn with me awhile; all ye now come to the Savior's side;
Come see the One who frees us all; the Lord of Life is crucified.

Have we no tears to shed for Him, while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
Upon the cross He bears the pain, the Lord of Life is crucified.

Seven times He speaks, seven words of love; His silence too, cries out to all.
His words of love our hearts receive. The Lord of Life is crucified.

O Love of God, o sin of man, in this dread hour true strength is found.
It is with love we triumph still. The Lord of Life is crucified.

GOSPEL READING ↑ *I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life* **John 14:1-6 (ESV)**

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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, 5, 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!"
 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 – Something Better*

♪ 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 (verses 1, 5, 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 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