

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Laetare
Fourth Sunday in Lent
18 March 2012



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A note to visitors

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

The Offering

This morning, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

Holy Communion

It is our desire that all people receive the body and blood of our Lord at this altar! However, our Lord has told us in His Word that His body and blood, given into our mouths, are powerful and not to be given or received lightly or in a careless way. Therefore, in respecting the Word of the Lord that anyone who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner is doing harm to themselves, and that He desires that all who commune together be truly united in the confession of the truth, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

All who are visiting us and who desire to commune with us are asked to first speak with our pastor before the service, so that all can make an informed decision about participating with us in our fellowship in this place. *We are not condemning anyone with this practice*; we seek only to follow the Word of the Lord and carry out responsible pastoral care.

Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

A note on the service:

Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.

The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.

It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this service sheet.

Hymn: I Could Not Do without Thee (HS 768)

1. I could not do without Thee
O Saviour of the lost,
Whose precious blood redeemed me
At such tremendous cost.
Thy righteousness, Thy pardon
Thy precious blood, must be
My only hope and comfort,
My glory and my plea.
2. I could not do without Thee,
I cannot stand alone,
I have no strength or goodness,
No wisdom of my own;
But Thou, beloved Saviour,
Art all in all to me,
And weakness will be power
If leaning hard on Thee.
3. I could not do without Thee,
O Jesus, Saviour dear;
E'en when my eyes are holden,
I know that Thou art near.
How dreary and how lonely
This changeful life would be,
Without the sweet communion,
The secret rest with Thee!
4. I could not do without Thee,
For years are fleeting fast,
And soon in solemn oneness
The river must be passed;
But Thou wilt never leave me,
And though the waves roll high,
I know Thou wilt be near me,
And whisper, "It is I."

Frances R. Havergal (1836–79)

203 Confession and Absolution

Catechism

P The Lord's Prayer, Fifth Petition

C **And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

P What does this mean?

C **We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny**

our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Introit (Ps. 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isa. 66:10a, 11a)



L Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;

C that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

A I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”

C Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Jer- | usalem!

A Pray for the peace of Jer- | usalem!*
“May they be secure who | love you!

C For my brothers and com- | panions’ sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”

Glory be to the Father | and to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

L Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;

C that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

204 *Kyrie*

The Kyrie will be sung several times in response to various petitions.

205 *Salutation and Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

205 *The Readings*

The Lord Feeds His People

The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2-21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1-15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21-31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five

books of Moses find their goal and fulfilment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41-47). So it is that God's people "*shall not hunger or thirst*" (Is. 49:8-13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

Old Testament Reading—Exodus 16:2–21

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD." ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has com-

manded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.¹⁹ And Moses said to them, ‘Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.’²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.²¹ Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

205 Gradual (*Ps.* 122:1, 7)

☐ I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
Peace be with- | in your walls*
and security within your | towers!

Epistle Reading—Galatians 4:21–31

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.” ²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Tract (*Ps.* 125:1–2, 5*b*)

☐ Those who trust in the LORD are like
Mount | Zion,*
which cannot be moved, but abides
for- | ever.

**☐ As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so
the LORD surrounds his | people,***
from this time forth and forevermore.
Peace be upon | Israel!

206 Gospel Reading—John 6:1–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the sixth chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" ¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ**

206 *The Nicene Creed*

743 **Hymn: Jesus, Priceless Treasure**

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering

438 **Hymn: A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth**

208 *The Service of the Sacrament*

212 *Blessing*

918 **Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**

Members

Christine; Ron

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ELCE

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The Church of God

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana; St. Columba CofE; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Pr. Yousef Nadarkhani

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD THE LARGE CATECHISM PART IV: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Just as Jesus blessed the fishes and loaves to provide for 5000 men gathered in a mountain field with much left over, so He blesses bread and wine to give His body and blood to countless saints gathered around altars unto the end of the age and there is always more for the next feast.

“Now, what is the Sacrament of the Altar?”

Answer, “It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ’s Word to eat and to drink.” Just as we have said that Baptism is not simple water, so here also we say that though the Sacrament is bread and wine, it is not mere bread and wine, such as are ordinarily served at the table [1 Corinthians 10:16-17]. But this is bread and wine included in, and connected with, God’s Word.

It is the Word, I say, that makes and sets this Sacrament apart. So it is not mere bread and wine, but is, and is called, Christ’s body and blood [1 Corinthians 11:23-27]. For it is said, “When the Word is joined to the element or natural substance, it becomes a Sacrament.” This saying of St. Augustine is so properly and so well put that he has scarcely said anything better. The Word must make a Sacrament out of the element, or else it remains a mere element. Now, it is not the word or ordinance of a prince or emperor. But it is the Word of the grand Majesty, at whose feet all creatures should fall and affirm it is as He says, and accept it with all reverence, fear, and humility [Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10].

With this Word you can strengthen your conscience and say, “If a hundred thousand devils, together with all fanatics, should rush forward, crying, ‘How can bread and wine be Christ’s body and blood?’ and such, I know that all spirits and scholars together are not as wise as is the Divine Majesty in His little finger” [see 1 Corinthians 1:25]. Now here stands Christ’s Word, “Take, eat; this is My body ... Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the

new testament,” and so on. Here we stop to watch those who will call themselves His masters and make the matter different from what He has spoken. ... What Christ’s lips say and speak, so it is. He can never lie or deceive [Titus 1:2]. paragraphs 8-13

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

20 Mar	3.15pm	Drama Club
21 Mar	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
22 Mar	7.30pm	Lenten Vespers (St. Francis, Funtley)
24 Mar	Pastors’ & Treasurers’ Conference, Cambridge	
25 Mar	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further ahead

27 Mar	3.15pm	Drama Club
	7.30pm	AGM (Parsonage)
28 Mar	10.20am	Drama Club performance (Orchard Lea Infants/Juniors)
	1–2pm	Pastor’s Surgery (The Hub)
	3pm	Devotion at Merry Hall
29 Mar	7.30pm	Lenten Vespers (St. Francis, Funtley)
1 Apr	10.30am	Divine Service <i>Palm Sunday</i> (Scout Hall)

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Genesis 22:1–14; Hebrews 9:11–15; John 8:46–59

Daily Readings:

Sun: Genesis 41:28–57 Mark 11:20–33 *Formula of Concord Solid Declaration III: 1–7*

Mon: Gen 42:1–34, 38 Mark 12:1–12 *FC SD III: 8–17*

Tue: Gen 43:1–28 Mark 12:13–27 *FC SD III: 18–23*

Wed: Gen 44:1–18, 32–34 Mark 12:28–44 *FC SD III: 24–29*

Thu: Gen 45:1–20, 24–28 Mark 13:1–23 *FC SD III: 30–35*

Fri: Gen 47:1–31 Mark 13:24–37 *FC SD III: 36–43*

Sat: Gen 49:29–50:7, 14–26 Mark 14:1–11 *FC SD III: 44–53*

Easter Events and Services

Wed 4 April

10am–1pm Children’s Easter Club (Scout Hall)

Thu 5 April

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Divine Service (St. Francis, Funtley)

Fri 6 April

2.30pm Good Friday Chief Service (Scout Hall)

Sun 8 April

9am Easter Breakfast (Scout Hall)

10.30am Divine Service (Scout Hall)

3pm Divine Service (Brighton Mission)