

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



Oculi
Third Sunday in Lent
3 March 2013



When one stronger than he attacks
him and overcomes him, he takes
away his armour in which he trusted
and divides his spoil.

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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.

Please also record your visit in the visitors' book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastoral visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors' book.

The Offering

At this time, 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.

Children in the Service

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church before the Service of the Sacrament.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

Holy Communion

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, 'Why Closed Communion?', which is available at the back of the church.

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 bulletin.

Explanation of Symbols:

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

421 *Hymn: Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*

184 *Confession and Absolution*

Catechism

P What does God say about all these commandments?

C He says, “I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

P What does this mean?

C God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Introit (Ps. 25:1–2, 17–18, 20; antiphon: Ps. 25:15–16)



A My eyes are ever | towards the Lord,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

C To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

A O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put
to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.

C The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

A Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.

C Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*
Let me not be put to shame, for I take
ref- | uge 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*

A My eyes are ever | towards the Lord,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

C Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

186 *Kyrie*

189 *Salutation and Collect of the Day*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Readings

Jesus Overcomes the Strong Man

Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the Word of the Lord (Jer. 26:1–15). So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14–28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (Ex. 8:16–24). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armour of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord (Eph. 5:1–9). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

Old Testament Reading—Exodus 8:16–24

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" ¹⁷ And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸ The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."²¹ Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³ Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'"²⁴ And the LORD did so.

There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

Gradual (*Ps. 9:19, 3*)

C Arise, O LORD! Let not | man prevail;*
let the nations be judged be- | fore
you!

When my enemies | turn back,*
they stumble and perish before
your | presence.

Epistle Reading—Ephesians 5:1–9

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Tract (*Ps. 123:1–3a*)

A To you I lift | up my eyes,*

O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!

C Behold, as the eyes of servants look to
the hand of their | master,*

so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he has mercy up- | on us.

Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,*
have mercy up- | on us.

Gospel Reading—Luke 11:14–28

L The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.



C Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marvelled. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts,

said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

191 *The Nicene Creed*

659 **Hymn: Lord of Our Life**

Sermon

192 *The Offertory*

Offering

193 *Prayer of the Church*

618 **Hymn: I Come, O Saviour, to Thy Table**

194 *The Service of the Sacrament*

199 *Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion Prayers*

202 *Blessing*

524 **Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds**

Sunday School Presentation

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron, Forbes, Frank

Family of members

Lucy, Diana (old age); Alex, Sarah & family; Jerry Harbin (cancer); Jean (multiple fractures)

Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Paul (homeless); Mike (health); Claire and Phil (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Margaret & Patrick Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Dave (mental illness); Claire (leukaemia); Don & Julie Gardner (cancer); Graham (tumour); Ronnie (cancer); Lisa & children (cancer); Steve (recovering from cancer); Baby Thomas (health)

ELCE

The pastors and congregations of the ELCE; Pr. Jon Ehlers; ELCE Salary Review Committee; Lutheran Radio UK (1-year anniversary); Norma Rakow (illness & old age)

The Church of God

India Evangelical Lutheran Church; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Fareham Methodist Church

Thanksgiving

Safe birth of Cleo to Rosie & Derek

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD THE POWER AND PRIMACY OF THE POPE

It is clear that the Roman pontiffs, with their followers, defend godless doctrines and godless services. And the marks of Antichrist plainly agree with the kingdom of the pope and his followers. For Paul, in describing Antichrist to the Thessalonians, calls him an enemy of Christ, "Who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4). He is not speaking about heathen kings, but about someone ruling in the Church. He calls him the enemy of Christ, because he will invent doctrine conflicting with the Gospel and will claim for himself divine authority.

... To be unwilling to be judged by the Church or by anyone else is to make oneself God. ... Paul commands that godless teachers should be avoided and condemned as cursed. And he says, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.... What fellowship has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

... to be called schismatics is a serious matter. But divine authority commands everyone not to be allies and defenders of impiety ... In this, our consciences are excused well enough, for the errors of the kingdom of the pope are clear. Scripture with its entire voice cries out that these errors are a teaching of demons and of Antichrist. ... The doctrine of repentance has been utterly corrupted by the pope and his followers. They teach that sins are forgiven because of the value of our works. Then they tell us to doubt whether the forgiveness takes place. They

nowhere teach that sins are forgiven freely for Christ's sake, and that by this faith we obtain forgiveness of sins.

So they hide Christ's glory and rob consciences of firm consolation. They abolish true divine services (i.e., the exercises of faith struggling with despair). They have clouded over the doctrine about sin.

paragraph 39–45

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

Tue	3.15pm	Drama Club
Wed	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	7pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis, Funtley)
Thu	9.30am	Budget planning meeting (Barbara's)
Sun	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)— <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
	4.30pm	Divine Service at Brighton Mission

Further ahead

12 Mar	3.15pm	Drama Club
13 Mar	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
	7pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis, Funtley)
14 Mar	7.45pm	Voters' Assembly (Parsonage)
17 Mar	10.30am	Divine Service
21 Mar	10/11am	Drama Club show at Orchard Lea Junior/Infant School
30 Mar	10am–12	Children's Easter Craft Party (Scout Hall)
31 Mar	9am	Easter Breakfast

Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 16:2–21; Galatians 4:21–31; John 6:1–15

Daily Readings:

Sun: Genesis 27:30–45; 28:10–22 Mark 9:1–13 *Formula of Concord Solid Declaration II: 39–47*

Mon: Gen 29:1–30 Mark 9:14–32 *FC SD II: 48–54*

Tue: Gen 35:1–29 Mark 9:33–50 *FC SD II: 55–60*

Wed: Gen 37:1–36 Mark 10:1–12 *FC SD II: 61–66*

Thu: Gen 39:1–23 Mark 10:13–31 *FC SD II: 67–73*

Fri: Gen 40:1–23 Mark 10:32–52 *FC SD II: 74–83*

Sat: Gen 41:1–27 Mark 11:1–19 *FC SD II: 84–90*