

2nd Sunday in Lent

Stand Firm in the Face of Christ's Enemies

March 16, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather:

Many people live as enemies of the cross of Christ, but God calls us to do two things. First, stand firm (Philippians 3). Be like Jeremiah, who kept communicating God's Word even when it was unpopular and even led to death threats (Jeremiah 26). Be like Jesus, who continued on to Jerusalem in spite of his enemies' threats (Luke 13). But secondly, love those enemies. Don't repay evil with evil, but overcome evil with good. Jeremiah persevered because he loved his people and wanted them to repent and be saved. Jesus wanted to save and protect even his enemies like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. He went to Jerusalem to die for them – and for us.

The Season of Lent

"Lent" is the period of 40 days right before Easter Sunday. This is a time for focusing on self-examination and repentance, and for receiving the forgiveness and peace and salvation that Jesus won for us on the cross.

The 40 days of Lent correspond with the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the desert (Matthew 4:1-2), the 40 days that Moses spent with God on Mt. Sinai (also called Mt. Horeb – Exodus 24:18), the 40 days that Elijah fasted as he walked to Mt. Sinai to meet with God (1 Kings 19:8), and the 40 years that Israel wandered through the desert (Numbers 14:33). Sundays are not included in the 40 days of Lent; they have a more joyful tone because Sunday is the day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead.

Some people practice fasting during Lent. Fasting is giving up something for a time in order to draw closer to God. Fasting is not an obligation but it is an option. Some people abstain from desserts or alcohol or meat during Lent. Other people give up watching TV or some other pleasurable activity. Still other people use the time of Lent as an opportunity to try to leave behind an old, bad habit. Fasting does not make you better than other people, but it does remind you that God is more important than any material thing or pleasure. Fasting encourages us to spend time in prayer. Fasting can also be an expression of repentance or of trusting in God alone in times of deep trouble. If you choose to fast in some way, do so humbly and responsibly, and make Jesus your focus and your priority.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Stand

Sharing God's Peace with One Another

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Hymn: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

(LSB 901, stanzas 1, 2, and 5)



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be
en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee
Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the
is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Seek the Lord while he may be found!
- C** **Call on him while he is near!**
- P** Let the wicked forsake his ways,
- C** **And the evil man his thoughts.**
- P** Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him!
- C** **And to our God, for he will freely pardon!** (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Prayer of Confession

- P** We take a moment to reflect on our lives, to set aside our excuses, and to silently ask God for forgiveness in Jesus' name.

(A brief moment of silence for individual prayer.)

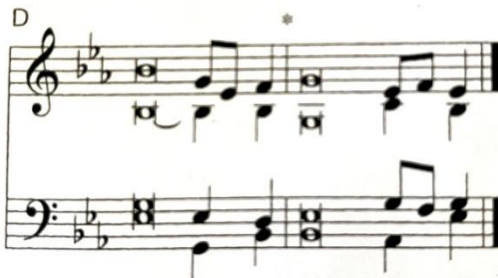
- C** **Almighty God, we confess that our hearts easily go astray and we have often failed to do what is right. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Help us to do better! Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** God does not want us to perish, but to turn from our wrongheadedness and live. (Ezekiel 18:23) Jesus died on the cross in our place, paying the price for our disobedience. The Bible promises: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) I therefore proclaim to you by God's authority what Jesus says here in his Word: all our sins and wrongdoing have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Psalm 4 (chanted)



Choir: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was | in distress.*

Be gracious to me and | hear my prayer!

Congregation: O men, how long shall my honor be turned | into shame?*
How long will you love vain words and seek | after lies?

Choir: But know that the LORD has set apart the godly | for himself;*
the LORD hears when I | call to him.

Congregation: Be angry, and | do not sin;*
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be | silent.

Choir: Offer right sacri- | fices, *
and put your trust | in the LORD.

Congregation: There are many who say, "Who will show | us some good?*"
Lift up the light of your face upon us, | O LORD!"

Choir: You have put more joy | in my heart*
than they have when their grain and | wine abound.

Congregation: In peace I will both lie | down and sleep;*
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in | safety.

All: 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.

Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave (LSB 571, stanzas 1-3)



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.

Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord God, we are weak but you are strong. Help us to stand firm in Jesus in spite of the influences in our society that oppose your will or make fun of our faith. But also help us to be like Jesus, to love even those who attack us. May our love in action help them to turn back to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 26:8-15

*(Jeremiah remains faithful and proclaims God's Word
even when the people want to kill him)*

⁸When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die!" ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard.

¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you.

¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

(Many live as enemies of Jesus, but you, remain firm in the Lord!)

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Bible Verse for Lent: Joel 2:13

LSB 173



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

(Jesus is saddened by those who reject him and oppose him, but he continues on to Jerusalem in spite of them)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.'

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Song: Glory Be to Jesus (LOSP 93, melody LSB 433)

Glory be to Jesus, who in perfect love
Died to be my Savior, sent from heaven above.

Jesus suffered greatly on the cross for me,
Gave me life eternal, from sin set me free.

Children's Message

Hymn: Children of the Heavenly Father

(Lutheran Service Book 725)



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

A I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

We pray for all people according to their needs, as God calls us to do in his Word.

- P** We pray for the church in every nation, that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us in faith and make us one. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering, that Jesus would encourage them and help them overcome. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who do not yet believe in Jesus, that the Holy Spirit would touch their hearts through our words and actions. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who serve our country, defending the peace, that God would protect them. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who serve as pastors, teachers, and leaders in the church and school, that they would see good fruit as a result of their labors. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for the grieving, that God would comfort them with the hope of eternal life. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who are in need, that the Lord would give them their daily bread. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for the sick, that Jesus the Great Physician would bring healing according to his will. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those on our prayer list, our friends and our relatives and our brothers and sisters in Christ. (*See the prayer list at the end of this order of service.*) We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**

P Into your hands, oh Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy. In Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

Jesus gave everything for us. In gratitude, we give a portion of our material blessings so that others may also know his love. The Bible says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Choir Anthem during the Offering: God So Loved the World (Lloyd Larson)

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that all who believe in Him should not perish, should not perish.

God so Loved the world, God so loved the world that He gave his Son, His one and only Son.

God so loved the world that He gave his only Son that all who believe in Him should not perish, should not perish.

God so loved the world, God so loved the world that He gave his Son, His one and only Son.

God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world and grant eternal life.

God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish, should not perish.

God so Loved the world, God so Loved the world that He gave his Son, His one and only Son.

God so loved the world.

Stand

Offering Prayer

A Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us, and so we bring to you the first and best of our material blessings. Let these offerings support and extend the ministry here in this congregation and around the world. In your own name we pray. Amen.

Offertory: Salvation Poem

(McPherson)

Jesus, you died upon the cross, and rose again to save the lost.
Forgive me now of all my sin. Come be my Savior, Lord, and friend.
Change my life and make it new, and help me, Lord, to live for you.
Change my life and make it new, and help me, Lord, to live for you.

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion is one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people, as we receive the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, who died on the cross to forgive all of our sins. To prepare for this sacrament, we follow the instruction found in 1 Corinthians 11:28: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. Do I repent of my sins and turn to Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior?
3. Do I believe that the bread and wine I receive is the true body and blood of Jesus, and not just a symbol of it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a life that is pleasing to God?

We believe that your "yes" to these questions indicates a common faith with our Christian congregation and, therefore, we invite you to receive Holy Communion with us.

- The light-colored beverage in the center communion cups is non-alcoholic.
- Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask Pastor during distribution.
- Children and those not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing, but are not given communion until they have completed basic instruction classes on the Christian faith.

If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church. Our Savior's wish is that all Christians receive His body and blood often. Ascension offers gluten free communion wafers for those who are protein/gluten intolerant or may have a wheat allergy. Simply notify the Pastor during communion if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Please see the Pastor following service if you have any questions.

Preparation for Communion

(LSB 177)



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P Heavenly Father, we all give you thanks and praise, together with your Son and the Holy Spirit, because through Jesus Christ you have saved us! By his death on the cross and his resurrection, Jesus has defeated the devil and has given us eternal life. For this reason, with the whole church here on earth and with all the angels and the believers in heaven, we praise your name and sing in your honor.

Sanctus (Song of Praise)

(LSB 178)



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

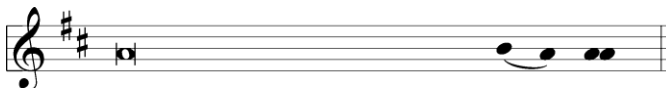
Lord's Prayer

- A** **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.**

Pax Domini (John 20:19)

(LSB 180)



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God – John 1:29)

Tune of “Wondrous Love” LSB 543

Have mercy on us, Lord, Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
 Have mercy on us, Christ, Lamb of God.
 Grant to your church your peace both here and everywhere.
 Have mercy on us, Lord, Lamb of God, Lamb of God.
 Lord Jesus, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing.
 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
 To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
 While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
 While millions join the theme, I will sing.

Sit

Communion Hymns

Hymn: I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

(Lutheran Service Book 729)



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

(Lutheran Service Book 423)



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(Lutheran Service Book 425)



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn: O Savior, Precious Savior

LSB 527



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought
3 In Thee all full - ness dwell - eth, All grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 O grant the con - sum - ma - tion Of this our song a - bove



O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove,
Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought,
The glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is Thine.
In end - less ad - o - ra - tion And ev - er - last - ing love;



We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where per - fect prais - es ring,



We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our ho - ly Lord and King.
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our gra - cious Lord and King.
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our glo - rious Lord and King.
And ev - er - more con - fess Thee, Our Sav - ior and our King!

Text and tune: Public domain

After Communion:

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Lord Jesus, you shed your blood for us! Help us to always trust in your great love and forgiveness, and not in our own strength. Let your Holy Spirit work in us, so that we may walk in your ways and not heedlessly go our own way. In your name we pray. Amen.**

Benediction

- P** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered!
(Psalm 32:1) Rejoice in the Lord and go in peace!
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing (Lutheran Service Book 924)



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Mike Mielke/Andy Barber
Acolyte:	Elizabeth Valdes
Reader:	Mike Mielke
Ushers:	Team #1

Prayer Ministry Philippians 4:6-7

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.

Illness and Recovery:

Pastor Patten was taken to the emergency room this past Tuesday for a fall from dizziness, and upon further evaluation, a tumor was found on his pancreas that has already spread to his liver; also, his wife, Marilyn, is now moved into assisted living at Good Samaritan (White Acres) in Rm.22 (for peace and strength for Pastor Patten and Marilyn, and for effective treatment for both); **Mark Pfeifer, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer,** (pray for healing from surgery related to lung issues, and pray that he will be able to breathe independently); **Deb Sullivan & her brother, Anthony** (for guidance & strength in handling parents' estate as they mourn), **Billie Meitler's friend, Carolyn Long** (for effective treatment for ovarian cancer); **Marjy Brady, for her niece's mother-in-law Rosemary Sweeney** (for acceptance and peaceful transition while in hospice); **Gilbert Provencio and Mary Lou Provencio** (for peace and patience for both as they wait yet another month for Gilbert's procedure); **Diana and sister Dayna, students where Mari teaches, orphaned and living with Aunt** (for protection and comfort in their loss); **Maddy, student where Mari teaches** (for safety from gang violence); **Ascension's housekeeping Lorena's daughter Alexa** (for Alexa's continued concussion recovery); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Ruthy Pople** (for the closing on her house as she continues in the process of moving); **Kirstin Hervin, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke,** (for treatment to keep Lupus under control); **Dov Kupfer, our Sanctuary flower provider** (for encouragement and strength, & resources to recover from condo fire); **Melissa Reddick, friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer** (pray for a miracle, peace and comfort for her and the family); **Helen Weesner, friend of Maritza Schlak** (recovery from mini stroke); **Gloria Voge** (for successful therapy and strengthening of her legs with resulting better mobility); **Sophia, Lorena's mother, Concepcion Arellanes's, caregiver** (for cancer recovery); **Aubrey McDermott** (for 15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (for upcoming heart procedure and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo); **Richard Neal, husband of Martha Neal** (recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth** (for effective treatment); **Lupita Burke, Ascension Preschool Teacher** (recovery from fracture); **Merle DeMartelaere, father of David DeMartelaere** (correct diagnosis and treatment

for Edema and AFib); **David Kwiatkowski, friend of Connie Swinney** (recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Jim Werner, brother of Elliott Werner** (successful treatment of and healing from cancer); **Brian Stickney** (recovery from cracked ribs); **Rebekah Livesay** (for healing and correct diagnosis); **Dick Seiders, father of Ron Seiders** (healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Mary Spott, Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother**, (heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** (relief from Osteoarthritis); **Amanda Bowser, friend of the Walker Family**, (recovery from cancer); **Patty Jones, sister of Martha Neal** (stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, (continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission); **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer); **Steve Wilmeth** (Continued recovery from cataract surgery); **Kathy Kiphart, John Weiske, Linda Seiders**.

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Bob Gallagher (Praise God endoscopy revealed no cancer, for confirmation in pending biopsy);

Sherri Pfeifer Wilson, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer and is doing well, thanks be to God);

BJ Schwab (Praise the Lord! Her recent thyroid biopsy came back benign);

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.

Ascension News and Notes

**Flowers for today's service are provided by
Gretchen Schmalz in memory of her parents.**





21-Mar Ann Perdue



21-Mar Rodolfo and Bridgette Valdes

Attention thrivent members who may have available "thrivent choice" from 2024! March 31st is the deadline to designate 2024 thrivent choice dollars to a church or charity of your choosing. You can designate by contacting Susan Hernandez at the local thrivent office at 915-565-1010, online at [thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) (generosity tab, thrivent choice), or by phone during business hours at 1-800-847-4836 (say "thrivent choice" to get to a person to help you).

Peace,

Susan E Hernandez
Thrivent Associate

2615 Montana Ave
El Paso, TX 79903

O 1-915-565-1010

C 1-915-223-2929

Text 1-915-223-2929



LCMS Youth Gathering

ENDURE

July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA



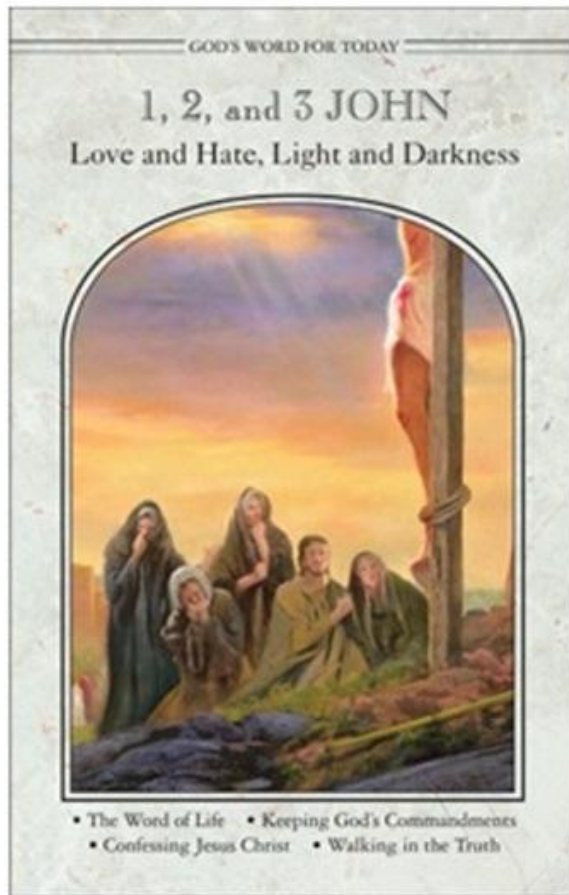
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good news of God's faithfulness in Christ that **ENDURES forever**

If interested contact the Pastor, David DeMartelaere, or Jacob Meraz for information and registration forms

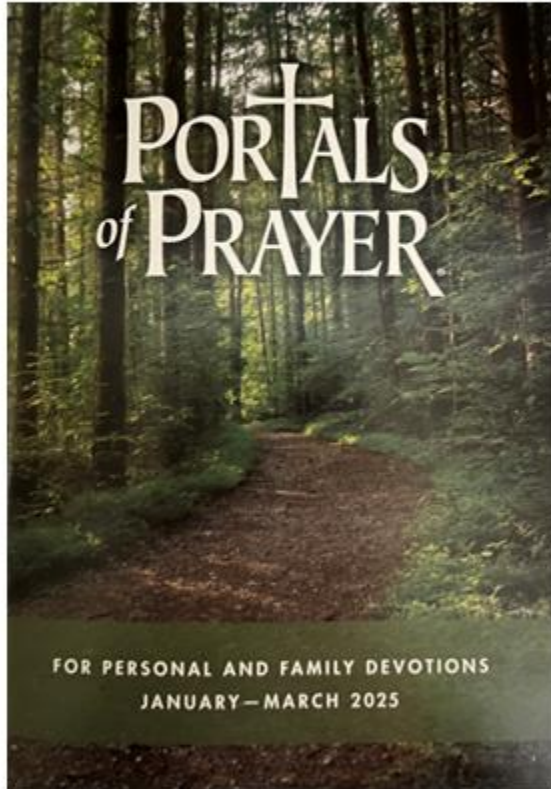
**The Thursday morning Bible study is studying 1, 2,3 John.
We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.**

We gather at 9:45 and begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.

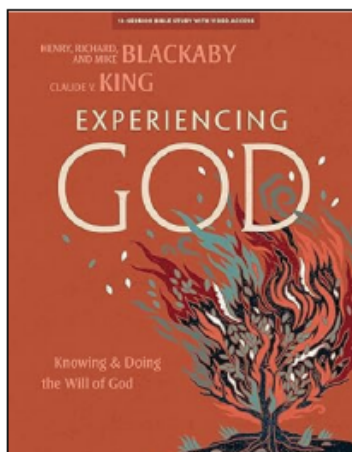
All women are welcome to join us as we study these 3 books. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.



NOW AVAILABLE
PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY
TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living



Tuesday Night Bible Study Winter 2025

- Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]
- Place:** *Via ZOOM!*
- Date:** First session is Tuesday, January 7, 2025
(proposed schedule below)
- Cost:** Order *Experiencing God* (with video access)
directly from Lifeway.com or Amazon.com

Experiencing God

By Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King

God is inviting you into an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Carefully listening to His voice will anchor you in His plan and set you free to live it with boldness and freedom. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

Proposed Schedule:

Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos
(approximately 15-20 minutes per session)
- 12 group sessions (12 weeks of homework, optional)

Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer from the comfort and convenience of your own home!

Date	Lesson #
Jan. 7, 2025	1
Jan. 14th	2
Jan. 21st	Break-Church Council Meeting
Jan. 28th	3
Feb. 4th	4
Feb. 11th	5
Feb. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Feb. 25th	6
Mar. 4th	7
Mar. 11th	8
Mar. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Mar. 25th	9
Apr. 1st	10
Apr. 8th	11
Apr. 15th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Apr. 22nd	12-Final Session
Apr. 29th	Dinner/Fellowship

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by December 31st (awerner@elp.rr.com)

**Please visit Lifeway.com or Amazon.com and
order *Experiencing God* (with video access)
prior to our first session.**

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (March 16)

9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship w/Communion
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



Monday (March 17)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (March 18)

6:30 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Class
6:45 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM Church Council (FH)

Wednesday (March 19)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel (S)
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)
6:00 PM Soup Supper
7:00 PM Lent Midweek Worship

Thursday (March 20)

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)
3:00 PM April Newsletter items due in Office
6:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday (March 21)

No Preschool Extended Care (FH)

Saturday (March 22)
