

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

## Warning! Turn Back!

March 23, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

Why do tragedies happen? Were the people who have died in earthquakes or fires or pandemics, worse sinners than the rest of us? Jesus says no (Luke 13:1-5). However, these terrible events are warnings. All of us are far from perfect – if you think you are strong, be careful lest you fall! (1 Corinthians 10:1-13) We all deserve to suffer the consequences of our sin. God is delaying the final judgment only to give us an opportunity to turn to him (Luke 13:6-9). Like with Ezekiel, God wants to work through us to warn our friends, neighbors, co-worker, and acquaintances. He does not want anyone to perish (Ezekiel 33:7-20). Jesus died for all of us! How terrible that sometimes it takes a tragedy to shake a person into thinking about God – or to get us Christians to remember that time is short and that many people are still far from the love of Jesus.

### **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: The Old Rugged Cross

(Hymnal: Holy, Holy, Holy 165)

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame.  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Til my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me,  
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary. (Refrain)
3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me. (Refrain)
4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.  
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where his glory forever I'll share. (Refrain)

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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

**Kyrie** (Responsive Prayer)

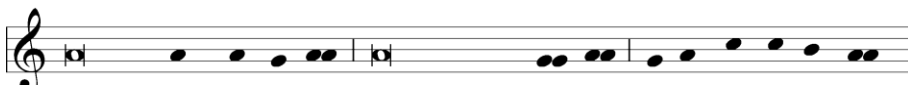
(Lutheran Service Book 168)



- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



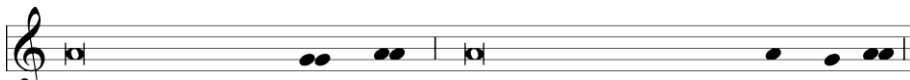
- C** Lord, have mer - cy.



- A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



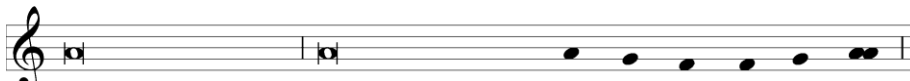
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



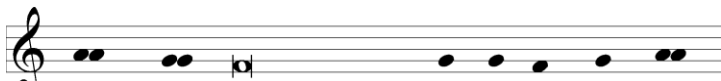
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Hymn: Chief of Sinners Though I Be

(LSB 611, stanzas 1-3)



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.

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 against the temptations that attack us each day. Remind us that time is short and that many people are lost without hope in Jesus. Help us to show your love in everything we say and do so that others may come to trust in you and be saved. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-20

*(Turn back to God and you will live!)*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle (New Testament Reading)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*(If you think you're strong, be careful lest you fall!)*

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they

drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**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 13:1-9

*(Jesus warns us that God is delaying his judgment to give us time to turn back to him)*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**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

**Once a Loving Shepherd** (Mondragon/Bringle – Hymnal: We Pray in Song 777)

1. Once there were one hundred, in the Shepherd's sheepfold.  
Once a loving shepherd has a hundred sheep.  
But one fateful evening, when he went to count them,  
One of them was missing, one of them was missing,  
Wandered from her keep.

Refrain: And the ninety-nine, he left in the sheepfold.  
He began to seek her, through the bitter cold.  
Then at last he found her, lonely, sad, and weeping.  
To her hurts he tended, in his arms he took her  
Safely to the fold.



2. I was once a lost sheep, wandering far from Jesus,  
Stubborn and unheeding, lonely, sad, and hurt.  
But one day he found me, offered me salvation.  
To my hurts he tended, in his arms he took me,  
Brought me back with love. (Refrain)
3. This same haunting story, echoes without ending.  
Many sheep are wandering. Lost and sad are they.  
But the faithful Shepherd, offers them salvation.  
With his death he saves them, with his love he feeds them,  
Christ the Lord is he. (Refrain)
4. You are like that lost sheep, though you may not know it,  
Wandering far from Jesus, far from faith and love.  
But your faithful Shepherd, calls for you and loves you.  
On the cross he suffered, from the grave he rose up,  
All to bring you home. (Refrain)

**Sermon    The Watchman** (Ezekiel 33:7-20)

## **Baptism**

### **Scripture Reading**

- P** Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark, Jesus promises: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."
- P** Amadeus, receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one rescued by Christ the crucified.

### **Prayer**

- A** **Almighty God, we bring Amadeus before you. We pray that you give him your Holy Spirit, so that he will have faith in Jesus as his Savior all the days of his life. Wash him from all evil, forgive him and help him to live as a new person. Let him know that he is your child. Give him your love every day and in the end, bring him to eternal life with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Words to the Parents and Godparents

- P** A little child is not able to take care of herself, but depends on her parents for everything. Amadeus depends on you, not only for his physical food and care, but also with regard to his faith. It is good that you have brought him to be baptized! But afterwards you must raise him up in the Christian faith. Jesus said to make disciples by baptizing and also teaching. God is calling you to pray for Amadeus, to teach him about Jesus, to show him how to follow Jesus, how to pray, how to understand the Bible. God wants you to encourage Amadeus and bring him to join with other Christians in worship. Will you commit to doing this? If so, say, "I will, with the help of God."

### **Parents and Godparents: I will, with the help of God.**

- P** God enable you to do this faithful and loving work and with his grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

### **Parents and Godparents: Amen.**

- P** Hear the Gospel according to Mark: "They brought young children to [Jesus] that he might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them." This is the Word of the Lord.

### **C Thanks be to God.**

## Baptism Questions

- P** We believe that God can work faith in the hearts of little children just as much, if not more, than in older people. Nevertheless, very little children cannot yet express what is in their hearts. Therefore I ask you parents and godparents to answer for Amadeus just as you speak for him and protect him in many other ways.

Do you renounce all the devil's works and ways?

### **Parents and Godparents: Yes, Amadeus and we renounce them.**

- P** Do you believe in God? I invite the whole congregation to join in this response, in the words of the Apostle's Creed:

### **C 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.**

**On 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. And 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.**

- P** This is the Christian faith. Do you wish to baptize Amadeus in this faith?  
**Parents and Godparents: Yes.**

## **Baptism**

- P** Amadeus Moreno, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**Parents and Godparents:** *(placing hands on child)* **May God bless you and keep you strong in faith. Amen.**

**Congregation:** *(extending hands towards the newly baptized)* **May Almighty God, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you, strengthen you in faith until Jesus comes again. Amen.**

## **Baptismal Candle**

- P** *(lighting the baptismal candle and giving it to the parents or the godparents)* Receive this burning light to show that you belong now to Christ, the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ. Amen.

You may extinguish the candle now, to take it home. May I suggest that you keep the candle in a special place and take it out and light it on special occasions such as Amadeus' birthday, or on the anniversary of his baptism. Light it with him and remind him that God loves him, that he is baptized, that he belongs to the Lord, and that Jesus wants him to live in the light, in faith and love. Amen.

## **Presentation**

- P** I present to you Amadeus, new-born in the Lord, our brother in Jesus' name!  
**C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord. May God bless you always!**  
**P** Peace be with you all.  
**C Amen.**

Stand

## 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.**

## 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.**

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 Beloved, God's Chosen (Robert Hobby)

*Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment,  
Compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.  
Above all, before all, Let love be your raiment |  
That binds into one every dissonant part.*

*Within, call forth wisdom, to dwell in you richly;  
Let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.*

*And from the heart's chamber, Beloved, and holy,  
Let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.  
Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment,  
Compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.*

*Above all, before all, Let love be your raiment that binds  
into one every dissonant part.*

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.

## 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

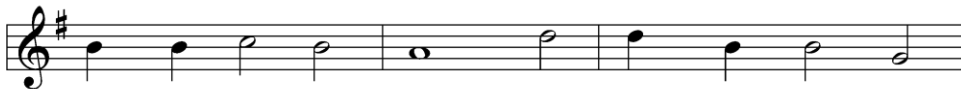
**P** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered!  
(Psalm 32:1) Rejoice in the Lord and go in peace!

**C** **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (LSB 528, stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6)



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My  
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He  
5 Look un - to Him, ye na - tions; own Your  
6 See all your sins on Je - sus laid; The



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my  
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the  
God, ye fall - en race. Look and be saved through  
Lamb of God was slain. His soul was once an



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!  
foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.  
faith a - lone, Be jus - ti - fied by grace.  
of - f'ring made For ev - 'ry soul of man.

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
Acolyte:	Jake Walker
Reader:	Jan Schlak
Ushers:	Team #2

## **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](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

### **Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:**

We pray for all those who may be grieving or mourning the loss of loved ones, especially remember these who loss is most recent:

The passing of **Rosemary Sweeney (mother-in-law of Rachel, niece of Marjy Brady)**, pray for peace and comfort for Rachel and the Sweeney family as they mourn the loss of Rosemary. The family gives thanks and praise to God that Rosemary has returned to her eternal home and is free from suffering.

The passing of **Carolyn Long (close friend of Billie Meitler)**, pray for peace and comfort for her family; and for Billie, who thanks God for the wonderful friendship they shared.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Skipper, Maxx Balgemann's brother** (for no longer requiring home health care due to his successful healing and progress in his post-op care); **Pastor Howard Patten is presently in rehab at Good Samaritan (White Acres) still awaiting test results for the tumor found on his pancreas; their son, Kirk has come from Santa Fe to support his parents; and after some time in rehab, Howard plans on joining his wife, Marilyn, in the assisted living apartments at Good Samaritan** (for better health and peace and strength for Howard, Marilyn, & Kirk); **Mark Pfeifer, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer** (for continued healing from Mark's surgery, as Mark's wife and Vicki are both encouraged that he is a bit more responsive, they pray that he will have restored health and be able to leave the hospital); **Deb Sullivan & her brother, Anthony** (for guidance & strength in handling parents' estate as they mourn); **Gilbert Provencio and Mary Lou Provencio** (for peace and patience for both as they wait for Gilbert's next procedure); **Diana and sister Dayna**, students where Maritza Schlak teaches, orphaned and living with their aunt (for protection and comfort in their loss); **Maddy**, student where Mari teaches (for safety from gang violence); **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); **Melissa Reddick, friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer** (pray for a miracle, peace and comfort for her and the family); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy and healing from spine fracture); **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 procedures 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); **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 and healing from cancer); **Brian Stickney** (continuing health issues); **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:**

We give praise and thanks to God for the baptism of **Amadeus Moreno** as our congregation welcomes him into the Lord's family. We pray for strength and guidance for his parents, **Omar & Susana Moreno**, and his Godparents, **Jesus & Vimy Moreno.**

**Greg Tatum (Marjy Brady's nephew) & his wife, Jessica** (for safe delivery of Greg's newborn baby boy, **Jackson Tatum**, born on Friday, March 21, morning);

**Lupita Burke, Ascension Preschool Teacher** (thanks for recovery from fracture);

**Alexa, daughter of Lorena, Ascension's housekeeping** (for continued recovery after accident).

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

## Ascension News & Notes



24-Mar Joshua Fredericksen

27-Mar Serena Meraz

**Attention thrivent members who may have available "thrivent choice" from 2024! March 31<sup>st</sup> 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

# Fundraising for New Orleans Youth Gathering

## Ascension Lutheran Church Attendees:

Phyllis & her father, Jacob Meraz

Envelopes with money amounts are posted on the wall in the narthex.

The money contributed will help in the fundraising effort for Phyllis and Jacob to attend this summer.



## San Pablo Attendees:

4 youth & 1 Adult Leader

San Pablo youth will be having yard sales on the first Saturday of every month.

Any donations of no longer needed household items, or gently used clothing, shoes, toys, & furniture would be used for their yard sale fundraising effort.

Call Luz Soto (YLM Servant Event Coordinator)

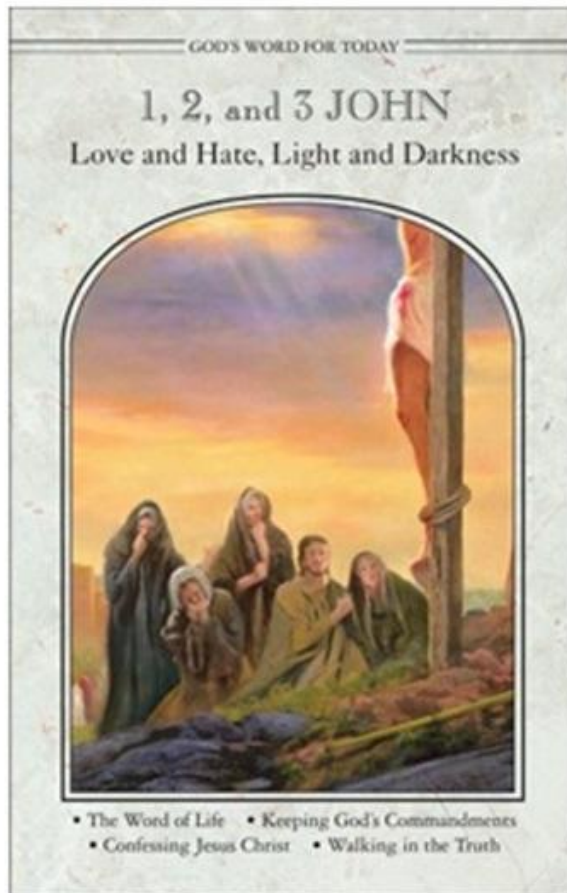
Office: (915) 858-2588 or Cell: (915) 315-6704



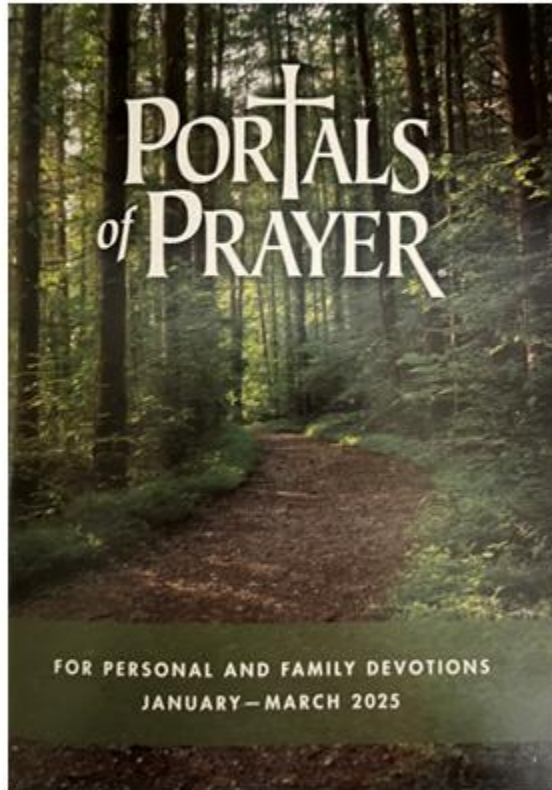
**The Thursday morning Bible study is studying 1, 2,3 John.  
We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.**

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

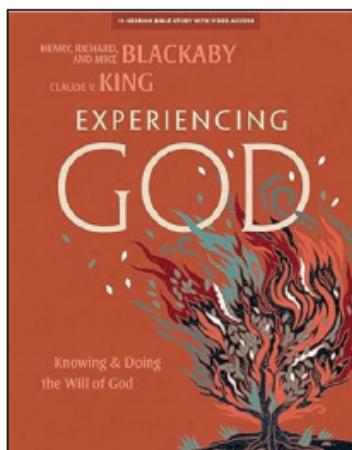
**All women are welcome to join us as we study these 3 books. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.**



**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](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://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](mailto:awerner@elp.rr.com))

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



## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (March 23)**

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 24) Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday (March 25)**

6:30 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Class  
6:45 PM Boy Scouts

### **Wednesday (March 26)**

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 27)**

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 PM Choir Practice

### **Friday (March 28)**

12:00 PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)  
3:30 PM LWML Setup (FH)

### **Saturday (April 1)**

8:00 AM LWML Workshop (S+FH)  
3:00 PM Sun School Teacher Meeting (PO)

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