



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Third Sunday in Lent ~ March 19, 2023*



WHAT GOOD IS IT  
FOR SOMEONE TO  
GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,  
YET FORFEIT THEIR SOUL?

MARK 8:36, NIV

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

Welcome to God's house for worship this Third Sunday in Lent. and the second of three Sundays as we focus on Stewardship. This week we will look at how God wants us to be faithful managers of the soul God has given us. The soul that God has given us is maybe our most valuable blessing from God. The soul needs to be taken care of just as our bodies need care. We don't want to be lazy in taking care of our soul because that can have eternal consequences.

## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Dear God, in your infinite love, you have entrusted to us the knowledge of your truth and the gifts of your goodness. Help us use them as good stewards, giving generously, praying urgently, and working diligently, that we may share in bringing others to your truth and hastening the coming of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

- Minister – Vicar Caleb Gustafson
- Organist – Jodi Langenhahn
- Ushers – Mark Krohn, Kurt Schubring  
*(Next Sunday – Bill Unruh, Tony Sulko)*

Today's Worship Theme:  
**Stewards of the Soul**

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**Opening Hymn**

**CW 621**

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing;  
Alleluia, alleluia! praise the everlasting King!
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless,  
Alleluia, alleluia! glorious in his faithfulness!
- 3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;  
Alleluia, alleluia! widely yet his mercy flows!
- 4 Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him; all who dwell in time and space,  
Alleluia, alleluia! praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847  
Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**Invocation & Opening Dialogue**

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Godliness with contentment is great gain.  
**For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.**

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.  
**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.**

Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.**

## Confession and Absolution

Let us now acknowledge our sinfulness and selfishness and ask God to forgive us.

**Gracious Father, we confess that we have rebelled against your perfect law. We have sinned in the way we live, in the way we speak, and in the way we think. Although you bless us richly every day, we fail to appreciate our gifts with the contentment and generosity you desire. For these and all sins, we deserve your punishment both in this life and eternally in hell. For the sake of your Son and his suffering for our sins, we ask you to forgive us. Grant us also your Holy Spirit to empower us in our daily lives to be content and generous.**

God loved the world in this way: he gave his one and only Son, Jesus Christ. He was our perfect substitute in life and in death. By his sacrifice on the cross, God's holy wrath has been satisfied, once and for all. Your sins have been forgiven and your guilt removed!

**God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ! May his love inspire a life of joyful generosity as we remember his goodness and mercy. Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

CW 623 sts. 1–2

- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join  
and aid my tongue to bless his name whose favors are divine.
- 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mercies lie  
forgotten in unthankfulness and without praises die.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the richness of your grace, may be faithful stewards of all your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## The Word

### First Reading

*Ecclesiastes 12:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”— <sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; <sup>3</sup>when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; <sup>4</sup>when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; <sup>5</sup>when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets. <sup>6</sup>Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, <sup>7</sup>and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. <sup>8</sup>“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Everything is meaningless!”

# Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye

Psalm 121D

## Refrain



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad - ow of your wings.

## Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—  
where does my help / come from?  
My help comes / from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- / en and earth.  
He will not let your / foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not / slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over / Israel  
will neither slum- / ber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—  
the LORD is your shade at / your right hand;  
the sun will not harm / you by day,  
nor the / moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—  
he will watch o- / ver your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going  
both now and for- / evermore.

**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. *Refrain***

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## Second Reading

Acts 6:1–6

<sup>1</sup>In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup>and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

<sup>5</sup>This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup>They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

## Verse of the Day

Mark 8:36, 37

<sup>36</sup>What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup>Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

*Stand*

## Gospel

Mark 8:31–38

<sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose

it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.  
<sup>36</sup>What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup>Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

*Be seated*

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day

**CW 702**

*Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake*

- 1 "Come, follow me," the Savior spake, "all in my way abiding;  
deny yourselves, the world forsake, obey my call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, what'e'r betide, take my example for your guide.
- 2 "I am the light, I light the way, a godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day, I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show how you must sojourn here below.
- 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's salvation,  
your heart from ev'ry guile to free, from sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul and lead you to your heav'nly goal."
- 4 Then let us follow Christ our Lord and take the cross appointed  
and, firmly clinging to his Word, in suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain  
the crown of heav'nly life obtain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677, abr.; (st. 3): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695  
Text: Public domain



## Cross Before Glory

Stand

### The Second Article (Redemption)

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

*Be seated*

### Thank Offering & Friendship Register

*As the offering is gathered, we ask both members and visitors to sign the Friendship Registers, which are located at the end of the pews. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.*

## Prayer of the Church

O Lord, in these Lenten days set our minds on your things rather than the things of man, that we may deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow your Son through this life into the joys of his resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you have given your Church the joy of proclaiming to sinful souls the truth that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us so that we might be justified by his blood and saved from your wrath over our sins. Grant all pastors the gifts of your Spirit to preach and teach this truth boldly and faithfully to our souls and many others. Help us to confess it in word and deed in our daily lives. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, as we remember with thanksgiving the multitude of nations that rejoice in heaven before you through belief in your Son, we pray that you would sustain our souls in that same justifying faith. On our earthly pilgrimages, help us to be good managers of our souls by regular use of the means of grace. Preserve us in saving faith and at the last, receive us into the glories of the heavenly life still to come. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer. Amen.**

*Special Prayers may follow*

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

**CW 850**

*It Is Well with My Soul*

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll—  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
- 3 My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
- 4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.  
Text: Public domain

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*Thank you for worshiping with us!  
May God richly bless your week.*

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**Serving the Pastoral Vacancy** - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior's vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is [pastorm@mysaintpeter.org](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org).

**Call News** – Our voters extended a Divine Call to Pastor Clint Burow, who currently serves at Amazing Grace in South Beloit, IL. Please keep him, his wife and family, and both of our congregations in your prayers as he deliberates where he may best serve our Lord.

**Midweek Lent Worship** – Weekly midweek Lent services are held on Wednesdays (March 22, 29) at 1:00 pm as we trace Jesus' final steps to the cross and empty tomb. We will follow the same pastoral rotation as St. Peter. If you can't attend our afternoon service, we encourage you to worship at a sister congregation. St. Peter's Lent services are on Thursdays at 5:00 & 7:00 pm. Mountain of the Lord's services are on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

“His Final Steps” is the unifying theme of the messages delivered by area WELS pastors.

- Midweek Lent #5, Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Presiding Minister: Pastor Andy Ewald (Immanuel, Mosinee) “His Final Steps Led to some Greeks”

**Encourage One Another** – Our member visits day was postponed due to last Sunday's weather. It has been rescheduled for next Sunday, March 26. After worship and Bible Class, members of Our Savior's will join our leaders in going to the homes of members of our church family who are straying from worship because of covid and our lengthy pastoral vacancy. Our visits won't last long as we simply express our love and give our brothers and sisters in Christ our encouragement to return. May the Lord bless this effort!

### **Spring Meeting Of The WELS Board for Home Missions -**

Pastor Mahnke will spend much of this week at our synod's headquarters in Pewaukee, WI. The Executive Committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday followed by a meeting on Thursday and Friday of the WELS Board for Home Missions (consisting of 28 men from our synod's 14 district mission boards). The Executive Committee will decide and announce the new mission requests that will be approved as part of the "100 missions in 10 years" initiative of the WELS.

**Area Divine Call News** – It was joyfully announced last weekend at St Peter that David Duncan has accepted the Divine Call to serve as the principal of the St Peter Lutheran School beginning with the 2023-2024 year. Pastor Mahnke continues to hold a Divine Call to serve Mountain View Lutheran Church in Calgary, Canada. Cassie Ewald is holding the Divine Call to serve as the second grade teacher. Let's remember them in our prayers! Pastor Jeff Grundmeier of Immanuel in Sault Sainte Marie, MI, has accepted the Divine Call to serve as the campus pastor at Northland Lutheran High School. We join the Northland family in giving thanks and praise to God!

**LWMS Spring Rally Is Coming** – The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Lutheran Women's Missionary Society will hold a spring rally on Saturday, **April 15th** from 9:00-11:30 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Stratford.

**WELS Coulee Women's Retreat** – **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Luther High School Onalaska, WI. This retreat provides an opportunity for WELS/ELS women and their friends to gather together, encourage each other with God's Word, & go forth to share God's Word with others. Registration forms and itinerary available at [www.facebook.com/WCWRetreat](http://www.facebook.com/WCWRetreat)

**Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS)** – The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual LWMS Convention, "Peace Like a River" will be held in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, **June 22-25**. Husbands & guests are welcome as well. To register visit the LWMS website: [60.LWMS.org](http://60.LWMS.org). Early bird registration is available until April 1.



**Easter Lilies** – A sign up sheet is in the narthex.



**Palm Sunday, April 2**

9:00 am Service of the Passion

**Maundy Thursday, April 6**

1:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion

**Good Friday, April 7**

1:00 pm Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 9**

9:00 am Festival Service with Holy Communion

Fellowship & light breakfast to follow

*Alleluia! Jesus lives!*

## This Week at Our Savior's

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class
<b>Monday</b>		No School – OSS Spring Break thru 3/24
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:00 PM	Midweek Lent Worship
<b>Saturday</b>		OS Day at Dime & Dollar
<b>Sunday 3/26</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class Lunch / Member Visits

## Growing Together

*March 12, 2023*

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Lent</u>	<u>Missions</u>
\$2,749.00	\$440.00	\$85.00	\$51.00	\$555.00	\$170.00
<u>NLHS Tuition Asst</u>	<u>NLHS Op</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Bldg Maint</u>	<u>School Fees</u>	
\$15.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$508.00	

**Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038**

**Attendance 3/12:** 36 + 16 (livestream) = 52



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love*

## **Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church**

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