

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VERNON, B.C.

**Sunday Before Lent**

March 2, 2025

**Pastor:** David Reim - 549-5250

**Organist:** Julie Reim

**Ushering this month:** Willy and Roman

**Prepare for worship:** Psalm 2 Hymnal page 123

**We Enter God's Sanctuary**

**Opening Prayer**

P: Oh Lord, our gracious Father, be present with Your grace and mercy. Lord, open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may truly hear your word and adore Christ as our Savior and Lord. Move us to true repentance and faith that we may receive your forgiveness and salvation that our hearts may rejoice and we may truly prosper in your grace. By Your grace may we grow in godly living and show your love in all we do. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Invocation:**

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

**Opening Hymn: 776 Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You**

1. Lord, 'tis not that I did choose You; That, I know, could never be;  
For this heart would still refuse You Had Your grace not chosen me.  
You removed the sin that stained me Cleansing me to be Your own;  
For this purpose You ordained me, That I live for You alone.

2. It was grace in Christ that called me,  
    Taught my darkened heart and mind;  
Else the world had yet enthralled me,  
    To Your heavenly glories blind.  
Now I worship none above You; For Your grace alone I thirst,  
Knowing well that, if I love You, You, O Father, loved me first.

3. Haste then on from grace to glory,  
    Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
All but heav'n is transitory;  
    God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story;  
    Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory,  
    Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

### **Our Confession of Sins:**

**P:** Thus says the Lord: “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.” (Jer. 17:9-10)

**C:** “**Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up His soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully.**” (Ps. 24:3,4)

**P:** O Father, we enter Your holy place to worship You. However, we are sinners. How then will You accept our worship and bless us on our way? It is only by Your grace in Christ Jesus. Therefore we pray, Cleanse us from our sins for Jesus' sake, so that with pure hearts and clean lips we can sing Your praises.

**ALL: O Lord, You have searched me and known me. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have seen the evil that I have done and the good that I left undone. Clinging to the cross of Jesus Christ, I appeal to You for mercy. Cleanse me in Jesus' blood.**

**Purify my mind from every evil thought, my lips from every evil word, my hands from every evil deed. Renew my heart by the working of Your Holy Spirit so that I may present my body as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to You, which is my spiritual service of worship.**

**P:** Be of good cheer, children of God, for our Father is forever merciful! The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all our sins, for Christ loves us and gave Himself up for us, that He might sanctify and cleanse us. We are now holy and blameless before God and our worship is pleasing to Him.

**Response of Praise: Hymn 342**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heads above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.**

## **God Speaks to Us**

**Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5**

2 And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you." 2 Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. 3 And He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. 4 For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' 5 As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.

**Epistle Reading: Romans 10:9 - 17**

9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart

one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

P: Here ends our Scripture Readings.

**C: Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

P: Blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.



**Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed**

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.

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 of the world to come. Amen.

**Hymn: 764** God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient Church's story, bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways.  
From our fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

**Sermon text: Mark 6:1-6**

*“Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.*

*4 But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.”*

**Theme:**

## The Power of Unbelief

- 1. It Blinds One to the Obvious.**
- 2. It Builds on the Irrelevant.**
- 3. It Blocks the Miraculous.**
- 4. It Breaks Before the Almighty.**

P: The Peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me  
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

**Hymn: 770** I Hear the Savior Calling

I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me.

My eyes once closed in blindness Are opened now to see  
That I myself was helpless to live eternally,  
But, dying, Christ did save me, And now He calls for me!

2. I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,  
A soul in bitter anguish, One needing to be free.  
The gift I have to offer Is Christ, my Lord's decree  
That all have been forgiven — My Savior calls for me!

3. I hear the Savior calling! He gives this charge to me:  
To serve the best I'm able, Whate'er the call may be.  
Thus hand in hand with others. Who share the gospel key  
We spread the gospel tidings — My Savior calls for me!
4. I hear the Savior calling! He changes hearts for me.  
From door to door I witness To share my Savior's plea;  
Yet nothing can be added, No word on bended knee,  
Beyond the simple gospel — My Savior calls for me!

### **Offerings for Christ's Church:**

**Sing** - while offering is brought forward Hymn 441 st. 1-2

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

### **Prayers of the Church:**

## **God Gives Himself to Us in the Lord's Supper**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P:** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. We especially praise You that You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh and have revealed Him to the world as our only Savior from sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the saints on earth, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



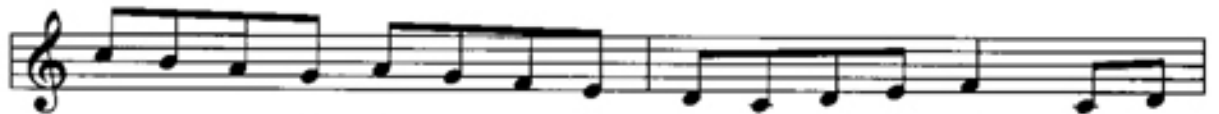
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and



earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -



san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly



blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**The Lord's Prayer:** 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.

**Words of Institution:**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Hymn: 755** What Is This Bread

1. What is this bread?

Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break,  
This life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

2. What is this wine?

The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace  
Brings His embrace  
Of life and love and so I sing!  
O taste and see the Lord is King.

3. So who am I,

That I should live and He should die  
Under the rod?  
My God, my God,  
Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see the Lord is free.

4. Yet is God here?

Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul  
He makes us whole  
Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see the Lord is real.

5. Is this for me?

I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe  
That I receive  
His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see the Lord is good.

## Distribution:

**P:** Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.

**O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT** *Nunc Dimittis*

C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For

light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### **Prayer after the Lord's Supper:**

**C: O blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament. I thank you for such amazing grace and for your forgiveness. As You live in me, let me also live in You. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith and live to glorify You forever. Amen**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

### **Benediction:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C: A - men. A - men. A - men.**

### **The Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

### **Closing Hymn: 786 Take My Life and Let It Be**

1. Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.  
Filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure-store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all, for Thee.  
Ever, only, all, for Thee.



**Scripture Treasure to Remember:**

**Romans 15:13**

*“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today** - Bible Class Continuing our Study of Denominations.

**Wednesday** - Skype Bible Study with Kenneth at 9:30

**Ash Wednesday Service** with communion at 6:00

**Thursday** - PCPC Study Club at 2:00

Catechism at 4:00

**Friday** - Shut-in visit with George at 1:30

**Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00

Bible Study at 11:20

### **Spring Ahead**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour next Saturday night.

### **Uganda**

Missionary Bruce Naumann and Board of Doctrine member Pastor Andy Schaller recently returned from Uganda, Africa. They met with the Confessional Lutheran Synod of Uganda (CLSU) for the final stage of colloquy. The CLSU is a church body made up of 18 congregations and several preaching stations as well as a fully operational Seminary. They broke away from the Lutheran Church Uganda, a LC-MS affiliate because of the false teachings in the Missouri Synod. After several days of discussions with their pastors, it was determined that we are in full agreement and they have been recommended for fellowship with the CLC.

### **March Birthdays and Baptisms**

<b>Britt Edblad</b>	<b>10th</b>
<b>Erma Kruger</b>	<b>22nd</b>
<b>Buy Harding</b>	<b>22nd</b>
<b>Mattea Johnston</b>	<b>22nd</b>

### **CLC Call News**

**Teacher Claire Abbas** of Berea Lutheran School in Inver Grove Heights, MN has received the call to Luther Memorial School in Fond du Lac, WI.

**Pastor Cory Drehle** of Berea Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

**Pastor Johnathan Schnose** of Bethel Lutheran Church in Morris, MN, has now received the call to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO.

**Sam Naumann** of Eau Claire, WI, has accepted the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland, CO.

**Pastor David Pfeiffer** of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC, has returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School in Mountain View, CA.

**Pastor Caleb Schaller** of Messiah in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE, and Peace Lutheran in Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran in White River, SD.

### **ILC ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN.**

Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire offers an academically excellent, Christ-centered education. ILC offers a range of student aid to help finance your education. Application for student aid is open till the May 1 deadline to receive priority consideration.

### **The Deepest Stroke that Pierced Him**

Justice—we demand it when we are wronged, we uphold it when we see another doing wrong, and we are too ready to abandon it when it points a finger of blame in our direction. But what happens when justice itself is turned upside down? What happens when the innocent is condemned and the guilty go free? What if the greatest act of injustice the world has ever known was, in fact, the very stroke by which divine justice saved us all?

This Lenten season, we invite you to walk the path of Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, as He stands before earthly courts, suffers the cruelty of sinful human men, and submits to the perfect justice of God on our behalf. The trials of Jesus were marked by treachery, deceit, corruption, and injustice—but they were also the means by which God's justice was carried out, not against the accused, but on behalf of the truly guilty. In this great reversal, the Innocent One bore the punishment of the guilty, and the guilty are granted the righteousness of the Innocent.

Through this series, we will explore the legal, historical, and theological depths of Christ's trial, conviction, and crucifixion, seeing how every moment

—even those shrouded in scandal and misbehaviour—was under the righteous hand of God, working for the acquittal of sinners. What men meant for evil, God used for the greatest good this world has ever known. Come, stand in the courtroom of history. Hear the false accusations, witness the unjust verdicts, and see how, in the end, the stroke that true justice gave became the stroke that brought us forgiveness, life, and salvation.