



# **All Saints Lutheran Church**

**Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)  
March 23, 2025**

## **Jesus Overcomes the Strong Man**

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

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704-752-4287 [www.allsaintslutheran.org](http://www.allsaintslutheran.org)  
Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor  
Joshua Pauling, Vicar  
Dr. Patricia Parker, Director of Music**

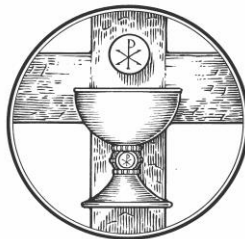
### **Communion at All Saints**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. It is important, therefore, that those who come to the Lord's Table trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Scripture also teaches that Holy Communion is a confession of faith. Those who receive the sacrament together show forth their unity in Christ, that is, a unity of heart and mind accomplished when all who commune together believe the same doctrine and are at peace with one another.

Scripture teaches that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and that Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, we, along with the historic Christian church, practice *Closed Communion*. Any who are not communicant members of All Saints, or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward during communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and bow your head, and the pastor will give you a blessing; and know that we would love to share more with you about our teaching and practice.

Prayers of preparation and thanksgiving for receiving the Lord's Supper are found in the LSB hymnal on p. 308.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; John 17:20–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.





# Divine Service 3

Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## 666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly  
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who  
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor  
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,

seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.  
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.  
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.  
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!

And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing  
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon  
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with  
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y

tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.  
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.  
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.  
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Jacob Fabricius, 1593–1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg Text and tune: Public domain

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 25:1–2, 17–18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15–16*



My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,\*  
 for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.  
 Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\*  
 for I am lonely and af- | flicted.  
**To you, | O LORD,\***  
**I lift | up my soul.**  
**O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;\***  
 let not my enemies exult | over me.  
**The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;\***  
 bring me out of my dis- | tresses.  
**Consider my affliction and my | trouble,\***  
 and forgive | all my sins.

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!\*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.


My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,\*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\*

for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

## Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

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

**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 8:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” <sup>17</sup>And they did so. Aaron

stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. <sup>18</sup>The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. <sup>19</sup>Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

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

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 9:19, 3*



Arise, O LORD! Let not | man prevail;\*

let the nations be judged be- | fore you!

**When my enemies | turn back,\***

**they stumble and perish before your | presence.**

## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Tract

*Psalm 123:1–3a*



To you I lift | up my eyes,\*

O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!

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

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

**Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,\***

**have mercy up- | on us.**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 11:14–28*

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



**G** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

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

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

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## 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.

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.



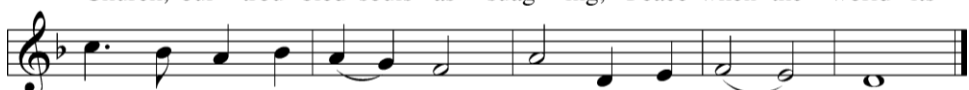
## 659 Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our  
 2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your  
 3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our  
 4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your  
 foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their  
 shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when  
 Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.  
 fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.  
 hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:  
 end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt. Tune: Antiphoner, 1746, Poitiers  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Offertory



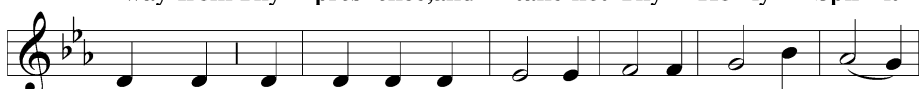
☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

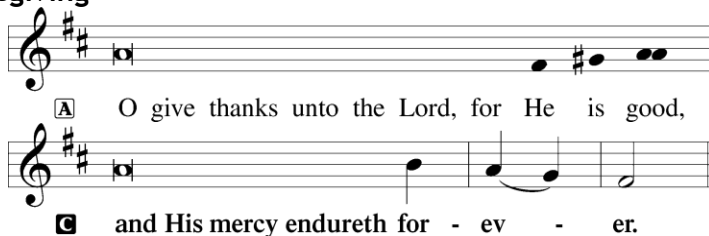
## Prayer of the Church

### Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

### Thanksgiving



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**G** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

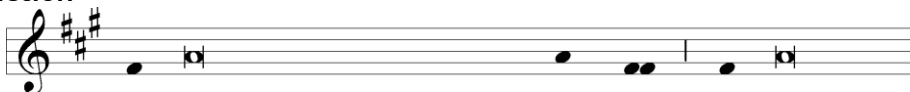


**A** Bless we the Lord.

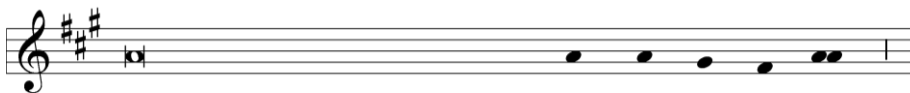


**C** Thanks be to God.

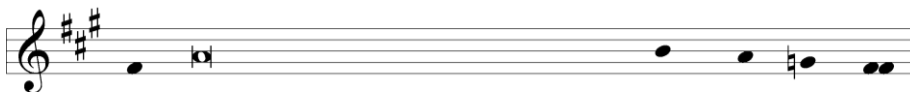
## Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## 521 Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken



1 Christ, the Lord of hosts, un - shak - en By the dev - il's  
 2 Mi - chael fought the heav'n - ly bat - tle, God - ly an - gels  
 3 Long on earth the bat - tle ra - ges, Since the ser - pent's  
 4 Je - sus came, this word ful - fill - ing, Tram - pled Sa - tan,



seeth - ing rage, Thwarts the plan of Sa - tan's min - ions;  
 by his side; Warred a - gainst the an - cient ser - pent,  
 first de - ceit; Twist - ed God's com - mand to Ad - am,  
 death de - fied; Bore the brunt of our temp - ta - tion,



Wins the strife from age to age; Con - quers sin and  
 Foiled the beast, so full of pride, Cast him earth-bound  
 Made for - bid - den fruit look sweet. Then the curse of  
 On the wretch - ed tree He died. Yet to life was



death for - ev - er; Slams them in their steel - y cage.  
 with his an - gels; Now he prowls, un - sat - is - fied.  
 God was spo - ken: "You'll lie crushed be - neath His feet!"  
 raised vic - to - rious; By His life our life sup - plied.

- 5 Swift as lightning falls the tyrant  
 From his heav'nly perch on high,  
 As the word of Jesus' vict'ry  
 Floods the earth and fills the sky.  
 Wounded by a wound eternal  
 Now his judgment has drawn nigh!

- 6 Jesus, send Your angel legions  
 When the foe would us enslave.  
 Hold us fast when sin assaults us;  
 Come, then, Lord, Your people save.  
 Overthrow at last the dragon;  
 Send him to his fiery grave.

Text: Peter M. Prange, 1972

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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