

All Saints Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)
March 30, 2025

The Lord Feeds His People

The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ, together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God's people "*shall not hunger or thirst*" (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

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Charlotte, NC 28277
704-752-4287 www.allsaintslutheran.org
Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor
Joshua Pauling, Vicar
Dr. Patricia Parker, Director of Music**

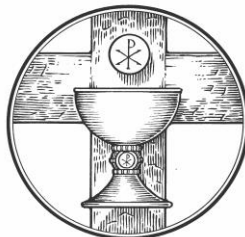
Communion at All Saints

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

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.

737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A
 2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your
 3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In
 4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard

cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of
 life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when
 rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor in
 ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in

ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.
 doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.
 cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.
 threat - 'ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?

- 5 He only will with patience chide,
 His rod falls gently down;
 And all your sins He casts aside
 In ocean depths to drown.
- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain
 Nor falters nor mistakes.
 All that His counsels may ordain
 A blessèd ending makes.
- 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
 And trust His guiding love;
 Then like a rock your peace shall stand
 Here and in heav'n above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.
 Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt
 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

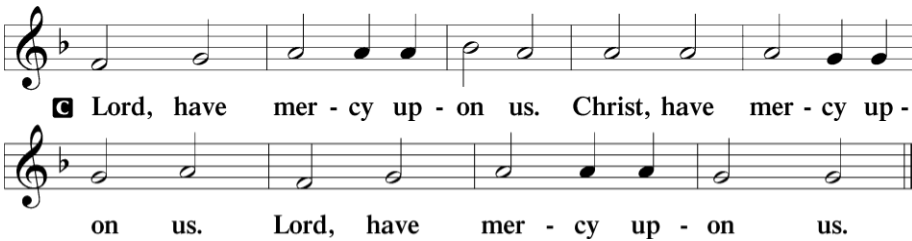
Introit

Psalms 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a



Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.
I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*
May they be secure who | love you!
For my brothers and com- | panions’ sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | 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.
Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

Kyrie



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2–21

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded:

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 125:1–2, 5b



Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount | Zion,*
which cannot be moved, but abides for- | ever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his | people,*
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon | Israel!**

Holy Gospel

John 6:1–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C 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.

743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



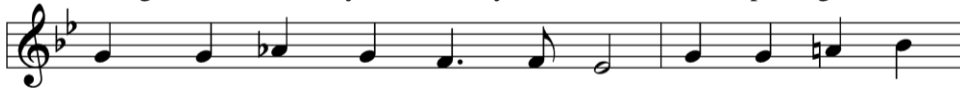
1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and
 God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;
 Thou canst not deceive me,
 Thine appeal is vain.
 Sin that once did blind me,
 Get thee far behind me,
 Come not forth again.
 Past thy hour,
 O pride and pow'r;
 Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
 Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!
 For the Lord of gladness,
 Jesus, enters in.
 Those who love the Father,
 Though the storms may gather,
 Still have peace within.
 Yea, whate'er
 I here must bear,
 Thou art still my purest pleasure,
 Jesus, priceless treasure!

Sermon

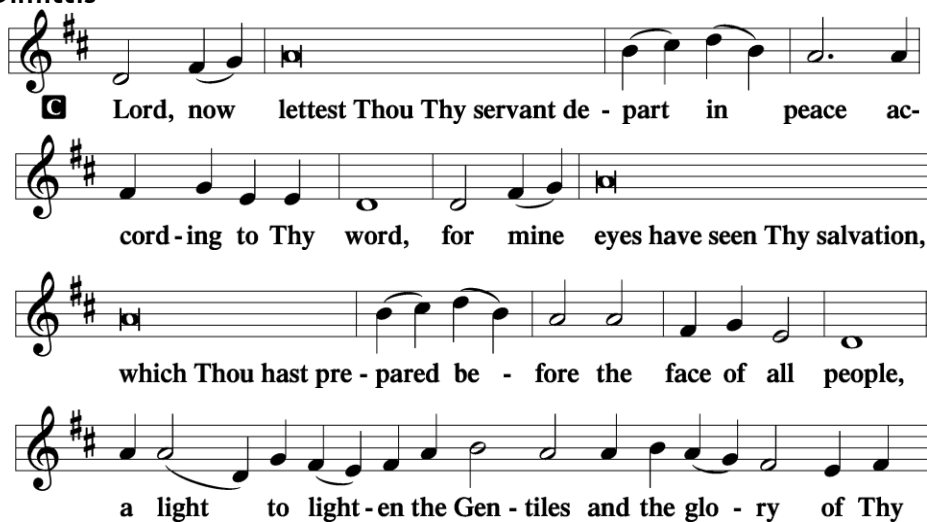
Offertory



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,
C 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

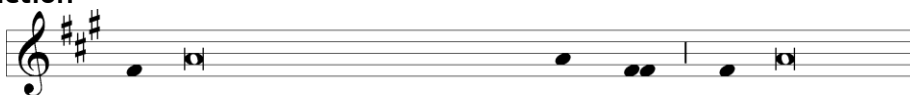


A Bless we the Lord.

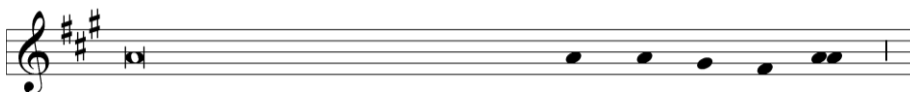


G Thanks be to God.

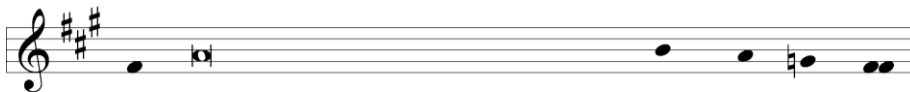
Benediction



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.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this
 2 O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain Whence the heal-ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious

bar-ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might-y;
 stream doth flow; Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar
 fears sub-side; Death of death and hell's de-struc-tion,

Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,
 Lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer,
 Land me safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es,

bread of heav-en, Feed me till I want no
 strong de-liv-'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
 songs of prais-es I will ev-er give to

more; shield; Feed me till I want no more. shield.
 Thee; I will ev-er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91
 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932
 Text and tune: Public domain

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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