

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



Third
SUNDAY
IN
LENT

**Exodus 32:1-20 and Luke 13:1-9
"Perpetual Conversion"**

**ANTECOMMUNION
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 23, 2025**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF ANTE COMMUNION**

*BOLD indicates congregational responses - * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PRELUDE

"Jesus: My Comfort and Trust"

Dom Paul Benoit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Matthew 28:19b

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

2 Corinthians 13:13

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***THE KYRIE**

ELW pg. 138

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(In Unison)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

C: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

EXODUS 32:1-20

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the

disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

¹⁵Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, tablets that were written on both sides, written on the front and on the back. ¹⁶The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets. ¹⁷When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." ¹⁸But he said,

"It is not the sound made by victors,
or the sound made by losers;
it is the sound of revelers that I hear."

¹⁹As soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰He took the calf that they had made, burned it with fire, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

**⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.**

Proverbs 3:5

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. Memory verse is in bold.

*Creation : Fall : Promise : **Exodus** : Conquest : Judges: Kings and Prophets : Exile :
Restoration : 2nd Temple : **JESUS** : +Apostles : Last Day : New Creation*

PSALM 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; eager-¹ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there¹ is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power¹ and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than¹ life itself;
my lips shall¹ give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long¹ as I live
and lift up my hands¹ in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you up-¹on my bed,
and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.**

⁷ For you have¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being¹ clings to you;
your right hand¹ holds me fast.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

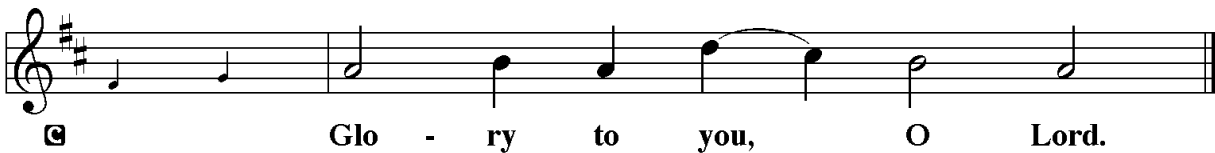
*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

*GOSPEL

LUKE 13:1-9

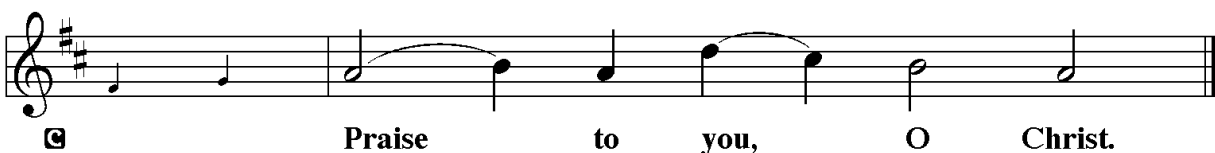


Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Response after the announcement:



P: The Gospel of the Lord.

MESSAGE

“Perpetual Conversion”

On the Golden Calf
On the Parable of the Fig Tree

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: Do I repent or just keep doing what I want to do? Can I perceive my faults?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: The Lord gives to all, calls all to a repentant life, warning us against sin and calling us forward in our walk with Him to forever.

So What? Examine oneself, reflect on one’s priorities and actions regularly. Turn to Christ, return to Christ, every day you are given.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

ELW #349

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

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.

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.

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.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Philippians 4:7

P: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Prayer”

Lloyd Pfautsch

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalm 51:10-1

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.***

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

AM: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

ELW #623

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.



OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in memory of Bill Anton and John McCutcheon by Judy Anton

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

- Ministers.....People of Lutheran Chapel
- Pastor.....Michael Comer
- Administrative Assistant.....Susan Hibschi
- Director of Music Ministries.....Kathie Riebe
- Choir Accompanist.....Anna Gilreath
- Assistant Minister.....Adam DeLuca
- Lector.....Janie Peak
- Acolyte.....Luke Hoffman
- Crucifer.....Maddie Potter
- Head Ushers.....Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
- First Aid/AED/CPR.....Tammy Royston
- Council Members of the Month.....Drew Carpenter and Don Boyette

Upcoming EVENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE: Please send your newsletter information to the office as soon as possible and no later than **Monday, March 24**. Thanks!

EASTER LILY: Forms are due today!

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY: The Outreach Committee’s next clothing giveaway is **Saturday, April 5** from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. We are in need of spring and summer clothes for girls and boys, infants through teens. Thank you!

EASTER EGG HUNT: An Easter Egg Hunt on will take place on **Sunday, April 13** at 2:00 pm. Please consider donating eggs and egg fillers such as candy and small toys. Items are due by Sunday April 6. Please leave in the box in the Narthex. More details to follow.

LOVE OFFERING FOR MARCH: Our love offering for March will be sent to The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center/A Domestic Violence Shelter. The Home serves as a temporary shelter for clients to work on goals to establish new housing, jobs, daycare, etc. while providing a safe, emergency residence where victims can live in times of crisis. When the families leave, the staff wants them to be strong and hopeful for the future and know that there is always someone only a phone call away if help is needed. Working together, these ministries can help survivors begin their journey towards safety, healing, and hope. Please prayerfully consider donating to this ministry and helping to make a difference.

GASTONIA LIONS CLUB: There will be a donation box beside the CAM box for used, no longer needed eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. Thank you!

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES: Please remember that we will continue to collect food for the Crisis Assistance Ministry throughout the year. You may place food in the blue collection box in the hallway near our fellowship hall and in the CAM basket in the narthex of the sanctuary. The Social Ministry team will deliver to CAM when the box is full – so keep us busy! Thank you so much!

Weekly **CALENDAR**



Sunday, March 23	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, March 24	8:30 am	Preschool
Tuesday, March 25	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, March 26	8:30 am	Preschool
	7:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer (Chapel)
Thursday, March 27	8:30 am	Preschool
	9:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
	5:30 pm	Worship and Music Meeting
Friday, March 28	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, March 29	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)

Let's **PRAY**



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1, 55:17*). *May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 8—March 23 to March 30, 2025

03/23 Morning Reading: Luke 1:57-80—Evening Reading: Joshua 13, 14, 15

03/24 Morning Reading: Luke 2:1-24—Evening Reading: Joshua 16, 17, 18

03/25 Morning Reading: Luke 2:25-52—Evening Reading: Joshua 19, 20, 21

03/26 Morning Reading: Luke 3—Evening Reading: Joshua 22, 23, 24

03/27 Morning Reading: Luke 4:1-30—Evening Reading: Judges 1, 2, 3

03/28 Morning Reading: Luke 4:31-44—Evening Reading: Judges 4, 5, 6

03/29 Morning Reading: Luke 5:1-16—Evening Reading: Judges 7, 8

03/30 Morning Reading: Luke 5:17-39—Evening Reading: Judges 9, 10

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Braylon Beam, Wes Beam, Ron Behringer, Steve Bell, Pauline Bradley, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Miles Carpenter, Kathy Finch, Judy Gault, Baker Hampton, Pastor Peter & Nancy Homovich, Ann Lowe, Trish Ratchford, Doug Rhyne, **Kay Robinson**, Pat & Barbara Robinson, **for the family of Joe Veale.**

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: John Austin, Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Peggy Button, Deborah Carpenter, Jeff Cobb, Zandra Chavis, Doris Coggins, Greg Cranford, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Jerry Green, Kirk Jordan, Sherry McCart, Bobby Myers, Rita Pasour, Parks Peak, Bill Riddle, Morgan Rosser, Dorothy Slessman, “Spike” Stevens, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner, Becky Van Dyke, Jimmy Watlington, Virgil Welch and recovery in the North Carolina mountains.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)

NEXT WEEK’S LESSONS

Wednesday, March 26 ~ Holden Evening Prayer Service

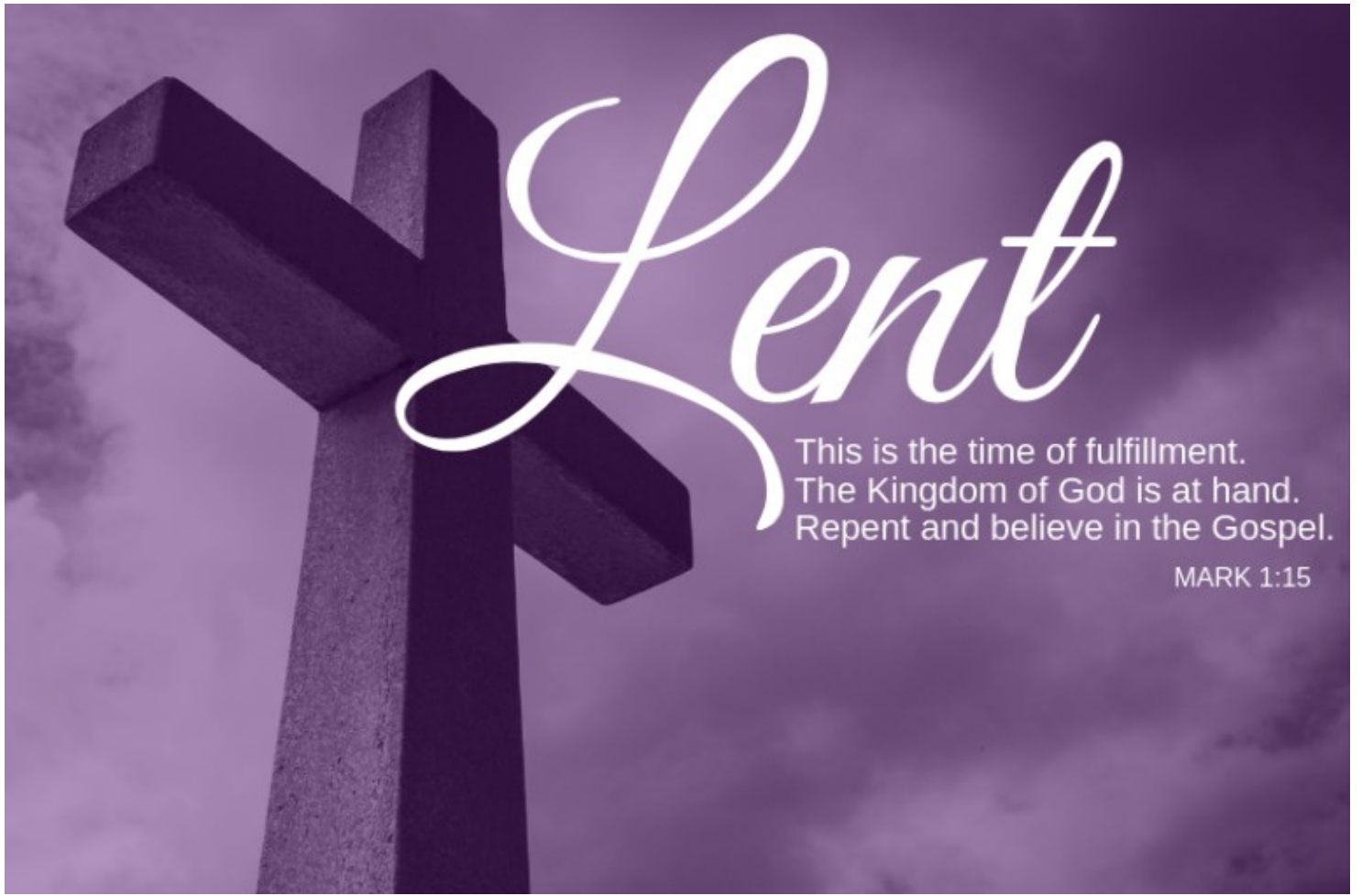
Psalm 61 “*Performing My Vows*”

Thursday, March 27 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Exodus 32:1-20 “*Perpetual Conversion*”

Sunday, March 30 ~ Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 6:4-13 and Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 “*Lost and Found*”



Easter Lily Order



If you wish to place a lily in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Service, please fill out the form below and return it along with your payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 23**. Make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel and write *Lily Order* on the memo line. Be sure to pick up your flowers after the Easter Sunday Service.

Number to order: _____ @ \$12.00 each = Total \$ _____

(Please print)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Placed by: _____

As the Deer Runs to the River



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

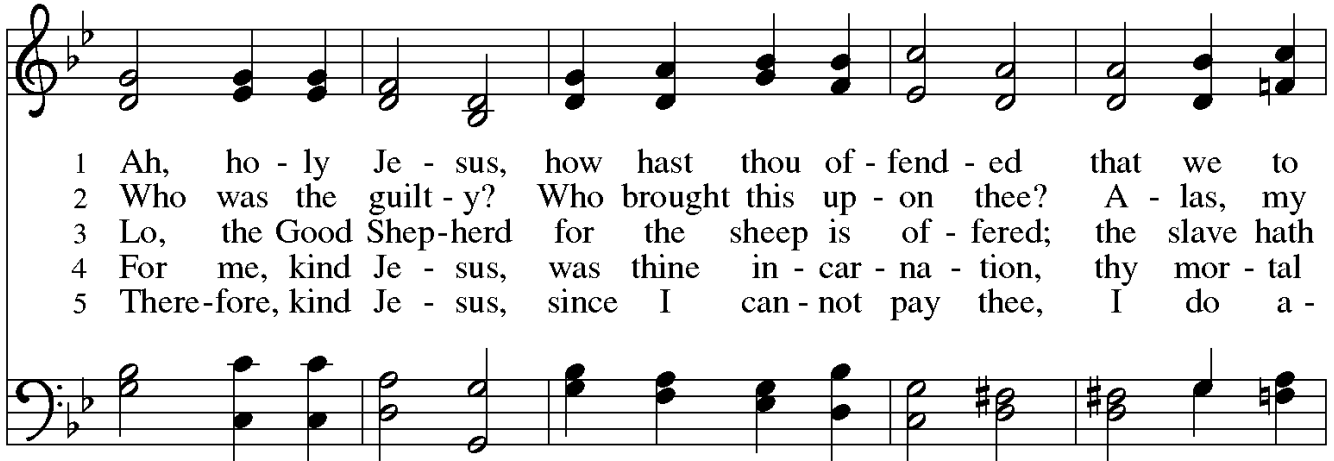
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

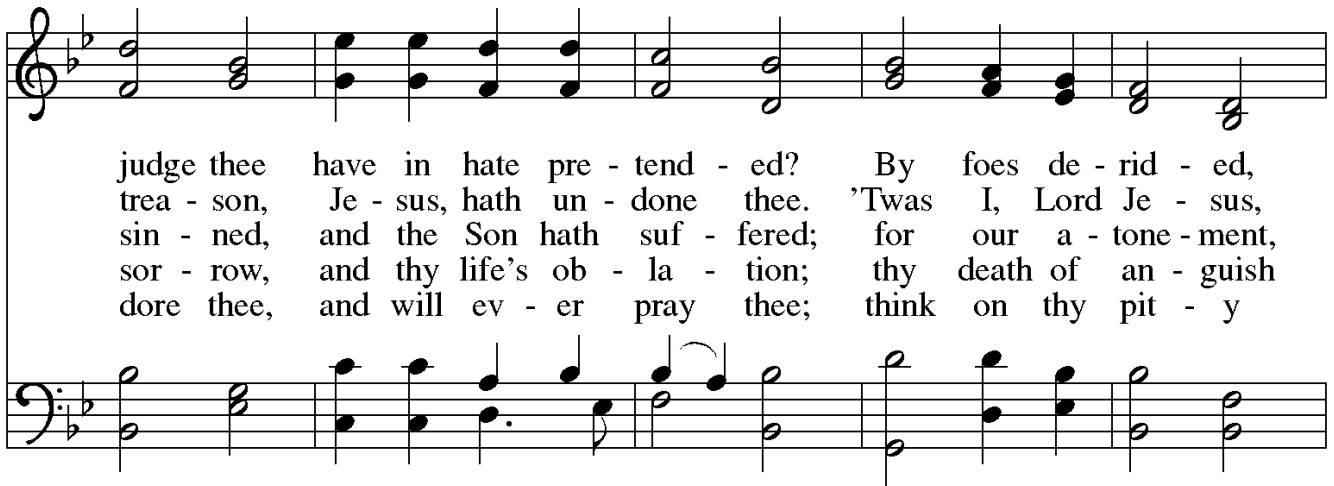
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

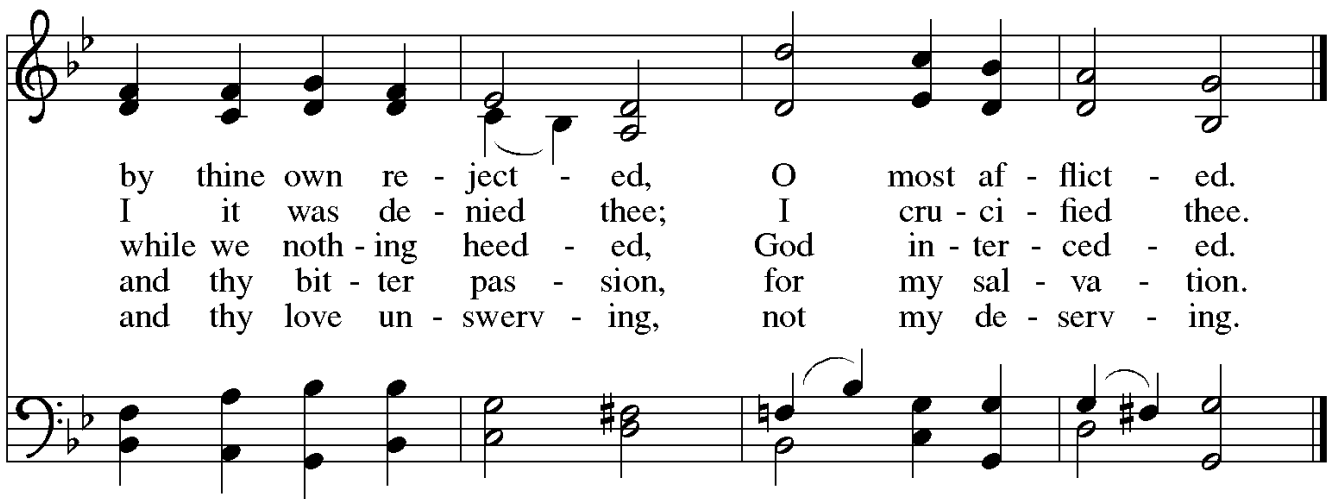
Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872