

The First Sunday in Lent

Divine Worship Service

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oberlin, Ohio

February 26, 2023

Prelude:

Welcome:

Opening Hymn

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

(LSB # 560)

1. Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.
2. Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.
3. Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.
4. And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

Invocation:

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

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution:

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for personal self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Psalm:

Psalm 119:57-64

P: The LORD is my portion

C: **I promise to keep Your words.**

P: I entreat Your favor with all my heart;

C: **Be gracious to me according to Your promise.**

P: When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to Your testimonies;

C: **I hasten and do not delay to keep Your commandments.**

P: Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget Your law.

C: **At midnight I rise to praise you, because of Your righteous rules.**

P: I am a companion of all who fear You,

C: **Of those who keep Your precepts.**

P: The earth, O LORD, is full of Your steadfast love;

C: **Teach me Your statutes!**

Kyrie: (spoken) (LSB p. 152-153)

P: In peace let us prayer to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Salutation and Collect: (sung) (LSB p. 156)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. [The Collect of the Day is prayed.]

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: (Hebrews 12:2)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse: (stand and sing) (LSB p. 157)

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

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th Chapter. (LSB p. 157)

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds^[c] among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants^[d] of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, 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.**

Children's Message:

Sermon Hymn

"Almighty God, Your Word is Cast" (LSB # 577)

1. Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.
2. Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
3. Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.
4. So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.

Sermon:

"Down on the Farm"

Offertory:

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

(LSB # 781, 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!

Offering:

*(Our tithes and offerings are brought forward from the Narthex
and placed before the LORD on His altar.)*

Prayer of the Church:

(Each petition of the prayers concludes with the response:)

P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

Preface:

(sung)

(LSB p. 160)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary...

...Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus:

(sung)

(LSB p. 161)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: Almighty God, You have said that whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup...

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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:

P: *Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My +body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my +blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

Pax Domini:

(sung)

(LSB p. 163)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei:

(sung)

(LSB p. 163)

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion:

First Communion Hymn: "O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire"

(LSB # 553, st. 1-5)

1. O Christ, our hope, our heart's desire, Creation's mighty Lord,
Redeemer of the fallen world, By holy love outpoured:
2. How vast Your mercy to accept The burden of our sin
And bow Your head in cruel death To make us clean within.
3. But now the bonds of death are burst, The ransom has been paid;
You now ascend the Father's throne In robes of light arrayed.
4. O let Your mighty love prevail To purge us of our pride
That we may stand before Your throne By mercy purified.

5. Christ Jesus, be our lasting joy, Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be To glory in the Lord!

Second Communion “Abide, O Dearest Jesus” (LSB # 919)

1. Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
2. Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.
3. Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.
4. Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.
5. Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length
6. Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.

Third Communion “I Am Trusting, Thee, Lord Jesus” (LSB # 729)

1. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.
2. I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.
3. I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.

4. I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.
5. I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.
6. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.

Post-Communion Canticle: “Feed Thy Children” (LSB # 774)

Feed Thy children, God most holy: Comfort sinners poor and lowly.

O Thou Bread of Life from Heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!

As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish

Till with saints in heav'nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

Post-Communion Collect: (sung) (LSB p. 166)

P: Let us pray....

...one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction: (sung) (LSB p. 166)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn “On What Has Now Been Sown” (LSB # 921)

1. On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2. To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3. O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Postlude:

+++

Preacher: Josh Moldenhauer
Organist: Oziah Wales
Order of Worship: Divine Service Setting 1 from LSB (CPH, 2006) p. 151-166



*“The one who sows the good seed
is the Son of Man.”*

Matthew 13:37