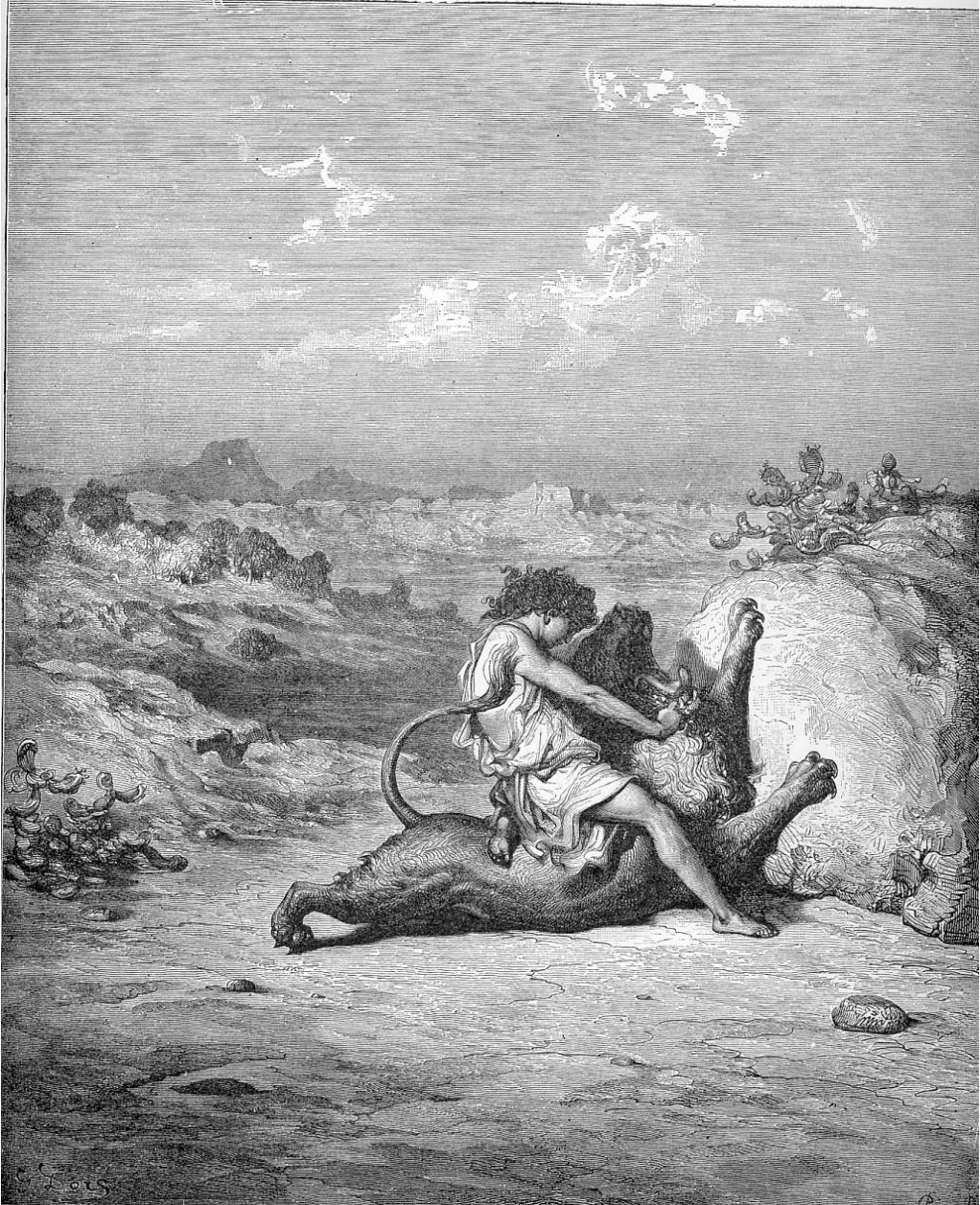


*But when One stronger than he assails him and overcomes him,  
He takes away his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoil.*



The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

+ Third Sunday in Lent +

Church Office: 308-284-2944

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Mar. 8, 2026

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**Hymn of Invocation: 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

**Confession and Absolution (pg. 184-185)**

**Service of the Word (pg. 186-189)**

**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 gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

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 distresses.

**Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.**

Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!

Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
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 gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.

**Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

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** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 26:1–15*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. <sup>3</sup>It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. <sup>4</sup>You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, <sup>5</sup>and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, <sup>6</sup>then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

<sup>7</sup>The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. <sup>8</sup>And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (Spoken Together)

*Psalm 9:19, 3*

**Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;  
let the nations be judged before 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.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 11:14–28*

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

**C** Glory 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.

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

## Nicene Creed (pg. 191)

## Hymn of the Day: 659 Lord of Our Life

## Sermon

## Offertory

*LSB 192*

## Offering

## The Litany

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**L** God the Father in heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**L** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**L** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**C Good Lord, deliver us.**

**L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;  
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**L** We poor sinners implore You

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

**L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;  
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;  
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;  
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** **we implore You to hear us.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** **grant us Your peace.**

**L** O Christ,

**C** **hear us.**

**L** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**L** O Christ,

**C** **have mercy.**

**L** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy. Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament (pg. 194-198)

Distribution Hymn: 630 Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling

Distribution Hymn: 594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Distribution Hymn: 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Distribution Hymn: 666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 199*

**Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**Post-Communion Collect**

**Salutation**

*LSB 201*

## Hymn to Depart: 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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**Welcome Visitors:** We're glad you're worshipping with us today and pray this service is a blessing to you. If you don't have a church home, we warmly invite you to join us regularly. To learn more about the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please speak with Pastor. Please complete an attendance card for our records. Activity bags and children's bulletins are available in the back—just ask an usher. Welcome, and thank you for being here!

**APRIL-JUNE - Portals of Prayer** are available.

**Remember in your prayers:** The Steele family after the death of Pastor's grandmother and Amy's brother, Sharon Abbott (Kevin Block's aunt), Julie Johnson, Luke Frosh, Raegan Roche, Doug Luedke, Myra Walls, Linda Peters, John Rambat, Paul Orth-Indian Hills Manor, Ron Orr-North Platte Care Center

**Radio Ministry** - Today's broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Phyllis Sauer in loving memory of Bud.

**Lutherans for Life- March 8** "The call to be disciples of Jesus who live out our faith each day and, in so doing, work to make disciples of others, has never been greater ... We need to boldly proclaim what God has done for us in Christ. Not in a spirit of superiority or power, but in a posture of love and grace." *Bishop Dan Selbo, North American Lutheran Church – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Lutheran Hour- March 8** "What Was the Price on That?" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. When we couldn't pay the price of our redemption, God did so completely by the life of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Lexington 104.5 FM-10:30am (CT). North Platte's Christian KJLT 970 AM- Sun. at 2:00 pm (CT)

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry- March 8** Luke 11:21–22 – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.” Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with — he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our stronger man. He guards and keeps us and ours. We have none to fear.

### **March 8 -March 14**

Sunday	8:30 am	Communion Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School
	9:30 am	Adult Bible Study
	9:30 am	Teen Bible Study
Monday	6:00 pm	Ladies Circle

Tuesday	5:00 pm	School Board Meeting
Wednesday	8:15 am	Chapel
Wednesday	5:45 pm	Soup Supper
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
Thursday	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday-Friday		NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

We are once again in need of Money Counters to assist with counting the weekly offerings. This is **not an every-week commitment**—with a full team, volunteers are scheduled only a few times a year on a rotating basis. Please talk to Terry Annable or call the church office for more information.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medallions are available for purchase after the service for \$20.00 each. Please see Rick Bradley to purchase yours.

## Midweek Lenten Service Schedule

(Meals and Services will be in the Fellowship Hall)

3/11/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

3/18/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

3/25/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

All members and visitors are kindly asked to please take a moment to fill out an attendance card each Sunday. This helps maintain accurate records and compile the reports that are submitted to the Nebraska District-LCMS.

KITCHEN CLEANING is set for Thursday, March 12 at 10:00 AM and Friday, March 13, at 9:00 AM (if needed). We need many hands and muscles to give the kitchen its yearly cleaning. Come when you are able. We're cleaning all cupboards, drawers, stoves and ovens. Lori Roberts is cleaning the refrigerators. Let her know if you would like to help her and she will tell you when to come. Bible study will still meet at 9:00 on March 12 and then we will go into the kitchen.

-JoAnn Bradley

The Keith County Senior Center will be hosting their Spaghetti Fundraiser on Sunday, March 15th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.  
A freewill offering will be accepted. Come enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our local senior center!

Reminder that you can designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or St. Paul's Lutheran School before **March 31st**.

From Martin Luther's Sermon for  
Lent 3 – Oculi  
Luke 11:14-23

17. But when the Stronger Man, the Gospel, comes, peace flees, and he [the devil] rages like a madman, for he resents being condemned, unmasked, punished, and publicly branded. Then he gathers up his armor - the powerful, wise, rich, and holy people - and sets them all to attacking God's Word, as we see in the persecution of the teachers of the Gospel. Such rage and persecution signify that the devil retires very unwillingly and raves in his whole body; for as he acts in the body and its members when he must depart, so he also behaves in the whole world, resisting with all his power when he is to give place to the Gospel; but it is all in vain, he must be expelled.

18. For a Stronger One, that is, Christ, comes and overpowers him and takes away his whole armor, that is, he converts some of those same persecutors, and to that extent makes him weaker, and His own Kingdom stronger. He divides the spoils too, that is, those He converts He uses for various offices, graces, and works in Christendom, of which Paul writes in Romans 12:6. He is also in the court yard or ante-room of the palace, for the devil's kingdom consists in outward appearances and pretences of wisdom, holiness, and strength; but when it is captured by the Gospel it is found to consist of pure folly, sin and weakness.

*Samson Slaying a Lion* is from *The Doré Bible Gallery* (~1886). The quote is from *Luther's Church Postils* of 1905, which are available on audio CDs.

This bulletin cover is designed to accompany: *Crumbs – Short Devotions for Every Day of the Year* by Carl Manthey Zorn. These daily devotionals are available at [www.scholia.net](http://www.scholia.net) in both print form (free) and as an audio recording on CD.

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