

Take a moment to notice the \* at the beginning of various portions of the order of service. The \* indicates the place where it is inappropriate to enter or leave the sanctuary because it marks a time of prayer or respect for the Word of the Lord. Please be considerate of others around you by honoring these notations.

LAETARE (REJOICE) FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The Lord Feeds His People

March 19, 2023

**AS WE GATHER:** 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 upon a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from 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. 47:8-13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

\*COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**People: 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. Amen.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Matins

**Organ Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn** **LSB 642**  
“O Living Bread from Heaven”

**\*Confession and Absolution:** (Printed)

**“O Lord, open my lips...”** **LSB 219**

**PSALMODY**

**Venite:** **LSB 220ff**

**READINGS**

**Catechism Review**

**Old Testament:** Exodus 16:2-21  
Pew Bible Page 112

**Epistle:** Galatians 4:21-31  
Pew Bible Page 1814

**\*Holy Gospel:** John 6:1-15  
Pew Bible Page 1655

**\*Common Responsory** **LSB 221**

**Office Hymn:** **LSB 743**  
“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

**Sermon**

**Offertory** **LSB 649**

**\*Canticle** **LSB 941**

**PRAYER**

**\*Kyrie:** **LSB 227**

**\*Lord’s Prayer:** **LSB 227**

**\*Prayer of the Church**

**\*Collect of the Day:** (Printed)

**\*Collect for Grace:** **LSB 228**

**\*Benedicamus/Benediction:** **LSB 228**

**Closing Hymn:** **LSB 711**  
“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

***Please help us keep our prayer requests current by calling the office (235.6705) with updates – especially with our long term requests and military personnel.***

As Prayer Warriors with Love, Inc.: For women- a woman please pray for her friend and for her family as they get settled in here in Waterloo, moving here from Haiti. a woman please pray that she will have her health improve, and that she will find a church to attend. a woman please pray that she will find a job. a woman please pray over her life, and her circumstances. a woman please pray for her many health issues, and please also pray for her relationship with her son. a woman please pray over her anxiety issues, and over her life in general. For men –a man please pray that he would improve his relationships with his 3 adult children living in MS. He has not seen them for 10 years.

**Praise God for participants inviting others to church with them last week!**

**Praise God for the good news going forth and positive relationships being built on Tuesday nights. Pray for continued relationship building, continued growth in Jesus, and steps toward establishing church homes for those without one.**

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