



E P H E S I A N S 2 : 1 0

IT IS GOD HIMSELF
WHO MADE US
WHAT WE ARE
AND GIVEN US
NEW LIVES FROM
J-E-S-U-S C-H-R-I-S-T

ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS



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Tammy Pethan
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Mike Klaeser
Vicki Roehrig
Billie Jo Frick
Vacant
Scott Seefeld



WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS 3/10

ELDERS: Keith Woelfel and Nathan Plackemeier

READER: Nathan Plackemeier

ACOLYTE: Brandy Krueger

WEDNESDAY ELDER: Gary Halbach

Wednesday Acolyte: n/a

WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS 3/17

ELDERS: Keith Woelfel and Nathan Plackemeier

READER: Vicki Roehrig

ACOLYTE: Ethan Heinrich

WEDNESDAY ELDER: Gary Halbach

Wednesday Acolyte: Zander Broome

THE LORD'S SUPPER is the way Jesus Christ, the bread of life, gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. Through this Sacrament, Jesus forgives our sins, gives us victory over death and Satan, and delivers his eternal salvation to us. In accordance with Jesus' teachings, we practice *closed communion*. We therefore ask our guests who wish to commune to speak with the pastor before the service.

BULLETINS can be found on our website under the News Tab, Newsletter/bulletins. Select the appropriate service.

TO THOSE VIEWING ONLINE: If you are a member of St. Martin, please "Register" by clicking one of the "Like" button on Facebook. We are trying to gauge how many of our members are worshipping virtually.

LIVE STREAMING—is now available in the social hall and in room #7.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION—If you are hospitalized, please be sure to update your admittance records indicating your religious preference and if you would like the hospital to call St. Martin.

IF YOU REQUIRE PASTORAL CARE or would like to learn more about Jesus Christ and St. Martin Lutheran, please contact the church office at 920/849-4421 or stmartinlcms@gmail.com or Pastor Thomas K. Schmitt at 920/418-1559 or stmartinlsmc.pastor.com.

APRIL-JUNE Portals of Prayer are available; donations are appreciated.

MARCH/APRIL CALENDARS are available in the narthex and social hall.

MARCH ALTAR GUILD: Bev Daun and Sherry Dake

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN. 3/10	9:00A Worship with Holy Communion 10:10A Fellowship 10:15A Bible Study/Sunday School
MON. 3/11	9:00A Uptown Commons Communion Call 1:00P Afternoon Bible Study
TUE. 3/12	6:00P Women's Group Meeting
WED. 3/13	5:15P Confirmation Class 5:30P Lenten Supper-Miss/Evang Committee 6:30P Lent Worship Service
THU. 3/14	1:30P Miss/Evang Committee Meeting
SUN. 3/17	8:00A Gift & Memorial Committee Meeting 9:00A Worship with Holy Communion 10:10A Fellowship-Chili Cook-off 10:15A Bible Study/Sunday School

+ + +

MEMBERS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

Ron and Darlene Hayes

MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

Berdine Piepenburg, Jane Schmitz, Erica Brehmer, Ethan Miller,
Brooke Schroeder, Alyssa Hickmann

IN OUR PRAYERS

-OUR SHUT-INS: Linda Friederichs, Lucinda Loose, Janet Maile, Simone
Pagel, Larelda Siebert, Don Michael, Marvin Schommer, Lou Ridder,
Pastor Novotney, Pat Bailey

ATTENDANCE: Worship 3/3 & 3/6 111 + 54 = 165

Sunday School 3/3 16 students \$16.50

VOLUNTEER FORMS for Fellowship and the Weekly Flower chart are
available on the counter in the social hall. Please sign up.

CALLING ALL WOMEN—Saturday, April 6, Zion Lutheran Church, New
Holstein will be hosting their annual Woman's Day. Registration forms
can be found on the counter in the social hall. Deadline to register is
March 25th. For more information, please see Judy Hacker.

TRINITY LUTHERAN RANTOUL is hosting its annual Funding our Future
chicken dinner fundraiser at Neighborhood Pub and Grill for March 23,
2024. The evening will consist of a delicious buffet style chicken dinner,
bucket raffles, silent action, live auction, and most importantly,
wonderful fellowship! We hope that you will be able to attend this
event! The public is welcome and encouraged to attend!! Please find
our event on Facebook under Funding our Future Dinner/Auction.



**The Board of Education is hosting a
Chili Cook Off during Fellowship. Anyone
is welcome to sign up to compete!**

March 17, 2024 at 10:15 AM

(sign-up sheet in the social hall)

THE PARKING LOT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Total Cash Donations Received to date: \$45,995.00

Total Pledges: \$3300

Total Funds raised through our fund Raisers in 2023: \$20949.

\$43,337.81 was paid in principal only in November.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND---HEART POST-ITS—Pull a heart off the window and donate to the parking lot fund. We raised \$5,000 at the end of last year, let's do it again. **Balance to go \$1091.00 to reach \$5000!**

CHALLENGE—Two anonymous donors have donated \$500 towards the sponsorship of the June 1 Milwaukee Handbell Concert, which is 2/3 of the total sponsorship. Can ONE more member meet this challenge? Let's Go – accept the challenge!

CANDY ORDER FORMS are due TODAY!

Treasurers Report - St. Martin Lutheran Church			
2024 - January Totals			
	Budget	Actual	Difference
Monthly Offerings	\$ 15,199.76	\$ 9,887.76	\$ (5,312.00)
Offerings YTD	\$ 15,199.76	\$ 9,887.76	\$ (5,312.00)
Expenses YTD	\$ 15,271.35	\$ 15,057.56	\$ 213.79
Missions YTD	\$ 802.50	\$ 802.50	\$ -
Total Expenditures YTD	\$ 16,073.85	\$ 15,860.06	\$ 213.79
YTD Actual Offerings less Total Expenditures		\$ 5,098.21	
Parking Lot Loan	\$ 71,586.53	\$ 1,146.61	\$ 70,439.92
YTD Actual	\$ (5,169.80)		
Budget vs Actual	\$ (5,098.21)		

Lent 4 - March 10

Opening Hymn: 554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

- 1 O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable, In whom all joys are found:
- 2 When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.
- 3 O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:
- 4 May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more!
- 5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express The image of Your own!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Public domain

①② Invocation, Catechesis, Confession and Absolution

↑ *Please stand as you are able.*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P What do you believe concerning our Lord Jesus Christ?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

P Do you confess to almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner, that you have sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed, and that you justly deserve His temporal and eternal punishment?

C Yes, I do so confess.

P Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins and do you pray that God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son, to be gracious and merciful to you?

C Yes, I do so believe.

P Finally, do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

C Yes, I do so believe.

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.

Service of the Word

③ Introit Psalm 77, selected verses

P I cry aloud to God and he will hear me.

C In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;

ALL: my soul refuses to be comforted.

P When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints.

C You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

P I consider the days of old, the years long ago.

C I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart."

P Then my spirit begins to search diligently:

C "Will the Lord ignore me forever, and never again be favorable?

P Has his steadfast love forever ceased?

C Are his promises at an end for all time?

P Has God forgotten to be gracious?

C Has he in anger shut up his compassion?"

P When the waters saw you, O God, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled.

C The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side.

P The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

C Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

ALL: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

↓ Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

C 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

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us

with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

↑ Verse

(Psalm 51:10-12)

♩ C Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

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

♩ C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♩ C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

- 1** God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
- 2** Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3** God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4** Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5** If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

- △** **6** Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin;
tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Public domain

Sermon

Hymn: 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen
stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Public domain

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. ... O Lord God, draw us into Your light. Expose wherever we, like Your people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against You, that in repentance we might look to Your Son lifted up on the cross and be saved from Your righteous wrath. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord of hosts, You gave Your only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Bless the work of missionaries as they carry this Gospel to the ends of the earth, that many may hear of Your love in Christ Jesus and be saved through Him. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Almighty God, You have set Joseph, our president, and Anthony, our governor, as authorities over us for our good. Bless and sustain them with all they need to govern us, that we might be ruled wisely and in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God, You are our light and our salvation. Hide in Your shelter _____ and all who suffer in body, mind or soul. Keep them in their day of trouble from falling into faithless fear and uphold them with Your peace in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever, we lift up our voices in thanksgiving. You have redeemed us out of trouble and gathered us here to feed us, that our souls may not faint within us. Satisfy the longing of our hearts with Your Son's good things, His body and blood, that we may abide in Your eternal peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament^④

- P** *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?*
- C** **First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.**
- P** *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?*
- C** **To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood, remembering that the flesh is sinful and full of suffering. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, remembering that there will be no lack of sin and trouble in it as well. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures declare.**
- P** Let us then in the Lord's Name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the sacrament.

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- 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

(LSB p. 197)

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

♪ Agnus Dei

(LSB p. 198)

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

↓ Distribution Hymns:

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Public domain

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

- 1 Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.
- 2 What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.
- 3 It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain
heaven. The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light That lurks within our nature.
- 4 From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption.
- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature
sharing. He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed Which over us impended.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Our death is now my life
indeed, For You have paid my ransom.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, “Come unto Me!” No falsehood have You
spoken. Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame, And I shall never perish.

8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; The Law no peace can ever
give, No comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus’ cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify; Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav’n above, You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Public domain

↑ ♪ **Closing Liturgy** (LSB p. 199-202)

☐ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

☐ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☐ and His mercy endureth forever.

☐ 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 Amen.

P The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spirit.

P Bless we the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: 728 How Firm a Foundation

- 1** How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2** “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 3** “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!
- 4** “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- 5** “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.Public domain

Notes on Today's Liturgy

Lent is a season of penitence and self-examination. It is a time to devote ourselves even more fervently to the Word of God. Therefore, we are making some temporary changes to our Liturgy to pursue this goal. Here are the changes as noted in this week's service:

- ① *The Lenten Season was historically a time of catechesis for new converts to the Christian Faith. We use this season to review those sections of Luther's Small Catechism that are pertinent to the theme determined by the Gospel Lesson for each service.*
- ② *Some of you may recognize the confession used here. It is from the "Communion of the Homebound" order used during quarantine for our small services in the Fellowship Hall. The direct, personal questions and answers call us to focus more intently on our confessions.*
- ③ *Rather than employ the appointed Introits for each Sunday, we are using some of the Lament Psalms in their place. Their stark and striking language may offend us at first, but they lay before God the anger, disgust, anxiety and frustration that we often feel when dealing with shame and suffering. Thus they give us the words we're looking for when our prayers in time of oppression fall short.*
- ④ *- From Luther's "Christian Questions and Their Answers"*

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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