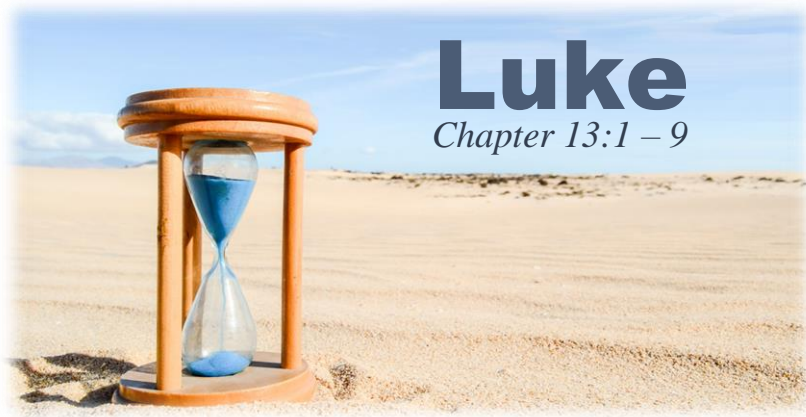


The Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday – March 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

(In-Person & Live -Streamed)



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL – 60450

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† Call to Worship †

Greeting

Opening Hymn #813 (v. 1, 5-7) "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" *Please stand at the last verse*)



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give
5 Still lift your stan - dard high, Still march in
6 At last the march shall end; The wea - ried
△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
firm ar - ray, As pil - grims through the
ones shall rest; The pil - grims find their
we a - dore: The Fa - ther, Son, and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
dark - ness wend Till dawns the gold - en day.
home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
Ho - ly Ghost, One God for - ev - er - more.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt. Tune: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916 Text and tune: Public domain

Please remain standing

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- 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.

Confession of Sins

John 20:19–23

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C 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.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- 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.

† Service of the Word †

Responsive Reading: Psalm 85

P¹LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

C You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

P²You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

C You covered all their sin.

P³You withdrew all Your wrath;

C You turned from Your hot anger.

P⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

C and put away Your indignation toward us!

P⁵Will You be angry with us forever?

C Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

P⁶Will You not revive us again,

C that Your people may rejoice in You?

P⁷Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us Your salvation.

P⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

P⁹Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C that glory may dwell in our land.

P¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

C righteousness and peace kiss each other.

P¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

C and righteousness looks down from the sky.

P¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

C and our land will yield its increase.

P¹³Righteousness will go before Him

C and make His footsteps a way.

ALL 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.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse (Lent)

Joel 2:13

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in
 stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn #784 (1, 2, 4, 6) “Take My Life and Let It Be”

1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would
 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its
 Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them
 of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
 I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry
 trea - sure store; Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er,
 flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
 beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
 on - ly, all for Thee, Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Please stand

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.

Offerings are brought to the LORD's altar as we sing:

Offertory Hymn #722 (v. 1) "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825-1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789-1860
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130302628 Tune: Public domain

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

P Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; Who has taught us to pray:

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.
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Please stand

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn #570 (v. 1, 3-5) “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,
 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,
 blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd’st me come to
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be -
 Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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