

# Fourth Sunday in Lent *Laetare*

11 March 2018 Anno Domini

**INTROIT** (*Ps. 122:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Is. 66:10a, 11a*)

*Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;*

that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast.

*I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”*

Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May they be secure who love you!*

For my brothers and companions' sake  
I will say, “Peace be within 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.*

*Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;*

that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*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.*

**GRADUAL** (*Ps. 122:1, 7*)

*I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”*

*Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!*

### Old Testament: Exodus 16:2-31

<sup>1</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." <sup>3</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. <sup>4</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." <sup>5</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>6</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" <sup>7</sup>And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord." <sup>8</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.'" <sup>9</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. <sup>10</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" <sup>11</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>12</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>13</sup>When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. <sup>14</sup>This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" <sup>15</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>16</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. <sup>17</sup>And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." <sup>18</sup>But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. <sup>19</sup>Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

### Epistle: Galatians 4:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup>For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup>But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup>Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup>Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." <sup>28</sup>Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup>But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. <sup>30</sup>But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." <sup>31</sup>So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

### Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15

<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup>Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>10</sup>Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>11</sup>And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>12</sup>So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. <sup>13</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" <sup>14</sup>Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

# Wednesdays in Lent



<i>Ash Wed</i>	<i>2/14</i>	<i>Supper by Brenda C.</i> <i>- imposition of Ashes starts at 6:45pm</i>
<i>Lent 1</i>	<i>2/21</i>	<i>Supper by Elders</i>
<i>Lent 2</i>	<i>2/28</i>	<i>Supper by Senior Youth</i>
<i>Lent 3</i>	<i>3/7</i>	<i>Supper by L.W.M.L.</i>
<i>Lent 4</i>	<i>3/14</i>	<i>Supper by Council &amp; Boards</i>
<i>Lent 5</i>	<i>3/21</i>	<i>Supper by Senior Youth Group</i>

**Supper served from 5:30 – 6:30pm**

**Family Night Classes & Choir 6:00pm-6:50pm**

**Lent Service 7:00pm**



<sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

- This is not a miracle that teaches that Jesus can do a lot with a little. Rather, as Spangenberg says, we should consider this miracle in such a way, "to strengthen and confirm our faith as with a seal and covenantal sign, namely, that we believe that God will be no less sure to feed, provide for, and nourish all who believe and trust in Him and conduct themselves earnestly in their calling. For just as God clothes the roses and lilies of the field, though they neither spin nor sew nor labor, and nourishes the birds of the air, though they neither sow nor reap, so He has bound himself to nourish and sustain all those who trust in Him and attend to their vocation and carry it out in faith." (Johann Spangenberg, *The Christian Year of Grace*, 124)

<sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

- The kingdom of God is not of this world. Christ had not come down from heaven to be incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary in order to set up an earthly rule. Many of the people at the mountain saw and desired Jesus as they wanted Him, not as He had come for them to bear their sin and be their atoning sacrifice.



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
**LAETARE**  
Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Weslie Odom

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**Collect of the Day:**

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. Amen.

**Introit:**

Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 8 (antiphon: Isaiah 66:10-11) — *The peace of the Lord*

**Psalm:**

Psalm 132:8-18 (antiphon: v. 13)  
— *The Lord has chosen; the Lord will bless*

**Old Testament Reading:**

Exodus 16:2-21 — *Bread from Heaven*

**Gradual:**

Psalm 122:1, 7 — *Let us go into the house of the Lord*

**Epistle:**

Galatians 4:21-31 — *The Law enslaves*

**Tract:**

Psalm 125:1-2, 5b — *Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved*



[www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish)

## John 6:1-15 ESV

### Author and Date:

The Apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23), receives these words from the Holy Spirit around AD 90. The text relates Christ Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000 men (not counting women and children) with two fish and five barley loaves.

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

- "After this/these things" – The events of John 6 take place sometime after the significant events of chapter 5, wherein Jesus heals on the Sabbath and makes it crystal clear that He is divine. It's this claim of Jesus that causes the Jews to seek even more after His life (see John 5:18). This desire for Jesus' death provides a stark thematic contrast to chapter 6, in which those following Jesus seek to make Him their king.
- "Sea of Galilee/Sea of Tiberias" – "Tiberias" appears only in John's Gospel. It is most commonly called the Sea of Galilee, though Saint Luke refers to it as the Lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1).

<sup>2</sup> And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.

- "Signs" – Miracles, which are by definition contrary to nature. Though Jesus must ultimately reach Jerusalem for His death and resurrection, He was not in hiding or secretly teaching and performing these signs.
- It does not seem that the crowds were eager to hear of the Word of salvation. They had been following Jesus because of His miraculous healings. Apart from the Word, a miracle, whether of healing or of physical feeding as here, avails nothing apart from temporary relief. Witnessing one of Jesus' miracles did not equate to having saving faith.

<sup>3</sup> Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.

- "The mountain" – Though the Gospel notes that it was "the mountain" that they ascended, it isn't known specifically which mountain is referenced. This certainly brings to mind other events in Holy Scripture which occur at mountain peaks such as the giving of the Law to Moses, the sacrifice of Isaac, and the Transfiguration. It also certainly brings to mind the Epistle text for Laetare, wherein Paul teaches about faith and works using an allegory of Hagar (Mt. Sinai) and Sarah (heavenly Jerusalem).

<sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

- The timing of the Passover places this miraculous feeding sometime in the early spring. This remark about the Passover and Jesus' words later in chapter 6 to the same crowd regarding the feeding of the children in Israel provide a key to understanding the fullness of what Christ is teaching through His miracles and preaching: God himself will provide a way out of this veil of tears. It will be through faith in the forgiveness of sins won by the shedding of the blood of the spotless Passover Lamb. It is this free gift that will sustain spiritual Israel all the days of their life and be the door to life everlasting.

<sup>5</sup> Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

- Recall Luther's Small Catechism and the explanation of the Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. God, indeed, tempts no one, but he does often, out of His divine, fatherly love, test his children so that their faith may be proved, refined, and strengthened. The testing of the Lord is a gift by which He keeps us in the one true faith until we die.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."

- Philip is the first to respond to the test. He makes a statement of fact that there is not enough money or, as Jesus has noted, enough food to fill the bellies even a little. In other words, with man it will be impossible to feed the crowd even with a significant sum of 200 denarii (a large amount of money, which was Philip's point).

<sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

- That Andrew responds at all with the report of the food found, but not in the way, foreexample, that Mary does at the beginning of John's Gospel in light of lack of wine at the wedding feast. Mary responds in faith there; Andrew is unconvinced that anything can be done.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

- Though the disciples are downtrodden after considering what they can do to feed the thousands, they nevertheless listen to the word of Jesus. Consider Peter's words at Jesus' insistence that they cast their nets after a laborious night of fishing with nothing caught (Luke 4:4-5)

## News and Notes of Interest

Please use our new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary!

After the early service, join us from 9:15am-9:30am for Coffee & Goodies in the new Fellowship Hall! Stick around for Sunday School and Adult Bible Class! We are currently studying the Old Testament book of Leviticus in our Adult study.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Lessons for PreK-8th Grade from 9:30-10:15am in Education Wing.

**FAMILY NIGHT DURING LENT** Take a much needed break during the middle of your week and sit at the feet of Jesus. Come join your church family in fellowship, education and worship! Special Meal at 5:30pm, Classes, Choir at 6:00pm (PreK-8th) and Lent Service at 7:00pm. Sr. Youth meet after Service until 8:30pm.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** 3/11 Sara Stutzman 3/12 Mike Nissen 3/13 Hope Reiners 3/15 Modesta De La Cruz 3/16 Mary Keogh, Dale Bauman 3/17 Marian Kerr

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:** 3/11 Brandt Ruppert, Mike Zimmerman 3/12 Nadeen Debban, Carol Metzger 3/13 Jackie Russell, Tim Hromadka 3/14 Tim Yurk 3/16 Gary Hromadka

**HIGHER THINGS DEVOTIONALS & PORTALS OF PRAYER** available in the Narthex Feb. 14-Mar. 31, 2018. Please check in this weeks bulletin for Bulletin Study Notes for the Christian Layperson.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS** for Peace Food Pantry & Hastings Food Pantry, ends Saturday, March 31st.

**Heartland Lutheran Fundraiser:** Haven't purchased your Heartland Lutheran Red and Blue Auction Tickets yet? Tickets need to be purchased by Tuesday, March 13th for the March 17th event at Riverside Country Club at [heartlandlutheran.maestroweb.com](http://heartlandlutheran.maestroweb.com) or you may call the school office at [308-385-3900](tel:308-385-3900).

**LIFEQUOTE** "My heart goes out to those struggling with guilt from the secret sin of abortion—a burden carried by millions. These women and men should not be deprived of the forgiveness Jesus earned for them when they have a repentant heart. We need to speak up and let them know they can have the forgiveness Jesus bought for them through His life, death, and resurrection." *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) (For those who have made an abortion decision, there is a *Word of Hope*, Lutherans For Life's post-abortion healing ministry. Call 888.217.8679 or email [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org).)

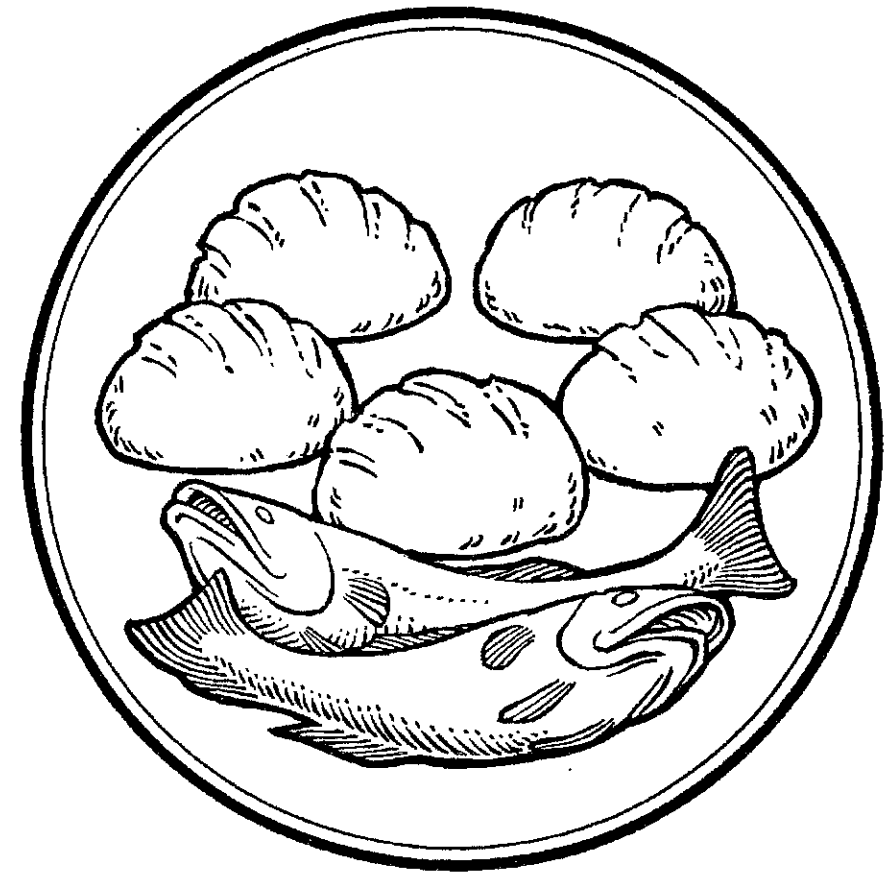
**HISTORIC, AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN RADIO...** You can listen to Lutheran experts teach on topics like: Apostolic Succession, 5th Century Missionary to Ireland Saint Patrick, The Lord's Supper, 2 Samuel and more. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen live or on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

### LCMS STEWARDSHIP Lent 4

John 6:8-9 - "One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" " The disciples focus on the numbers: so little for so much! But the Lord's grace will not be limited by the narrow vision of His disciples. The Lord has a plan to use even the little for His work of greatness. So let us be faithful even in the little and watch the Lord use it for His great works!

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
*Laetare*

March 11th  
8:00 & 10:30am



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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402-462-9023

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Pastor Marcus J. Mackay [peacemackay@gmail.com](mailto:peacemackay@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Peace!

We are glad that you are here as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you have not already done so, we ask that you sign the Guest Book at the entrance to the church. Contact information can be written in the Fellowship Book located in the aisle side of each pew. If you do not have a church home and are interested in becoming a member here at Peace, please contact Pastor Mackay 402-831-1084.

**The Lord's Supper is a Gift.** . . and as with all our Lord's gifts, we desire to give and receive them as He intends. The Lord's Supper is for our benefit, but it can be received unworthily. *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 11:27). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord, and in love for you, Peace follows the practice of closed communion.

**All Guests** must visit with our pastor before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with our Pastor prior to the service, he is more than willing to visit with you during the week.

**The Divine Service** utilizes beautiful Liturgies and Hymns that the Christian Church has passed down for generations, all the while retelling the story of salvation and enacting the work of Christ among us. This bulletin contains an outline to assist you in locating the various parts of the service within our Hymnal. The inserts have the Scriptures & Propers for the Day, as well as Notes about this particular Sunday or Festival of the church year. May God strengthen you today with His Word and Sacrament!

## Prayers of the Church

House Fire + Gies Family in Omaha Expecting + Erin Erb Hospice, Recovering, Surgery, or Hospitalization + Janice Callan + Tonda Wolfe + Carol Metzger + Mark Dicken + Bill Novak + Mary Black + Alan Fredricks + Jan Utecht + Carey Sramek + LeRoy Thom  
Health Issues + Verla Rosenau + June Rose + Jeannette Barker + Randy Russell + Olivia + Jace Moore + Thomas Gatz + Carol Krause + Jesse Beran + Jo Metzger Cancer + Phyllis Heath + Andy Jacques + Taylor Cochran + Ed Elshof + Marilyn Houston Military + Gary Thompson + Ross Peters

## In His Service

Presiding Minister: Rev. Marcus J. Mackay

Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Tim Yurk

Acolytes: 3/11 8am Merrick Russell 10:30am Annalicia Potter  
3/18 8am Micah Mackay 10:30am Rylie McAleese

Altar Guild: Mar. Jeanne Buck, Julie Klatt Apr. Dianne Botsch, Tonda Wolfe

Ushers: 8am Wes C., Josh & Merrick R. 10:30am Walt I., Ernesto A.

Elders: 3/11 Roger B. 308-390-3484 3/18 Roger B. 308-390-3484

Bus Drivers: 3/11 Gary O. 402-469-9797 3/18 Gary O. 402-469-9797

## Gifts of Time and Treasure

<u>Last Week's Attendance</u>	179	<u>Weekly Year to Date Attendance</u>	161
<u>January Budget Income</u>	\$ 16,461.00	<u>January Budget Expense</u>	\$ - 21,709.00

## The Lord's Week

Sunday, March 11th	8:00am	Divine Service
	9:15am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	10:30am	Divine Service
Monday, March 12th	9:30am	Sewing for Orphan Grain Train
Tuesday, March 13th	9:30am	Bible Study
	6:00pm	Trustees & Elders Meetings
Wednesday, March 14th	11:00am	Senior Bible Study/Lunch Village Diner
	5:30pm	Meal-Council & Boards
	6:00pm	Classes & Choir
	7:00pm	Lenten Worship 7:30pm Senior Youth
Thursday, March 15th	6:30pm	Ladies' Night
Sunday, March 18th	8:00am	Divine Service
	9:15am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	10:30am	Divine Service

*Church Office hours are 9:00am to 12:00 noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The office may be closed on occasion due to holidays and errands. Our Secretary is Mrs. Jeri Dush, Church Office 402-462-9023 or [peacelutheranasthastings@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranasthastings@gmail.com)*

## Return from Exile . . . Coming This Wednesday at 7pm

God created man and woman, and they began their journey in the garden. In the midst of that Garden of Eden were two trees more beautiful than the rest. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life--what joy for the man and woman to come to these trees and worship God, giving thanks for His good and gracious gifts. But one day there was an unwelcome visitor to their worship service: Satan. He had things to say, things which seemed wise. They were lies, but the man and woman listened and sin came. Adam and Eve were exiled from the garden and from the tree of life. How they longed to return to the garden and the beautiful tree, and God promised that He would lead the way. Jesus Christ leads us from one garden to the next and from one tree to the tree of life in the courts of heaven. It is a hard and treacherous journey for our Leader, and it required a stop at another tree: the cross. The evil Satan, who used a tree to bring sin into world, was conquered by another tree, and our sin was washed away.



DIVINE SERVICE

Setting One

*During Lent, all responses are spoken*

Prelude & Ringing of Bells

Hymn #711

**Confession & Absolution** p.151

Introit *insert*

Kyrie

**Service of the Word**

Salutation & Collect p.156

Old Testament Reading

Gradual

Epistle Reading

Lent Verse p.157

Gospel Reading

Apostles' Creed

Hymn of the Day #743

Sermon John 6:1-15

*"The Feast: By Faith or Force?"*

Prayer of the Church

Offering & Offertory p.159

**Service of the Sacrament**

Preface & Proper Preface p.160

Sanctus & Prayer

Lord's Prayer

The Words of our Lord

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei

Distribution & Hymns

#641 #420 #423

Nunc Dimittis & Collect

Benediction

Hymn

#918

Postlude