

**Old Testament**

**Genesis 12:1-3 NIV** The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be Blessed through you."

**Epistle**

**Hebrews 9:11-15** When Christ came as High Priest of the good things that are already here, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own Blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the Blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! 15 For this reason Christ is the Mediator of a New Covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance - now that He has died as a Ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

**Historic Gospel** (on front cover)

**John 8:46-59** Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am ....

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**3-Year Gospel** (Sermon Text)

**John 12:20-33** Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me. 27 "Now My Heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your Name!" Then a Voice came from Heaven, "I have glorified It, and will glorify It again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him. 30 Jesus said, "This Voice was for your benefit, not Mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die.

**Historic Gospel**

**John 8:46-59** Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe Me? 47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." 48 The Jews answered Him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" 49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor My Father and you dishonor Me. 50 I am not seeking glory for Myself; but there is One who seeks it, and He is the Judge. 51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps My Word, He will never see death." 52 At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet You say that if anyone keeps Your Word, he will never taste death. 53 Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do You think You are?" 54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. My Father, Whom you claim as your God, is the One Who glorifies Me. 55 Though you do not know Him, I know Him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His Word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad." 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to Him, "and You have seen Abraham!" 58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

# **OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.osllakeland.org](http://www.osllakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✱ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✱ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Lent-5 Judica ✱ Judge (me) Lord, by Christ**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area or Our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before Communing. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. God bless your Worship.

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On silver liturgy sheets or red hymnal at p.15 & ff.

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Invocation Hymn	118 (4v)	Father, Let Me Dedicate All This Year...
<i>Psalm 91</i>	-91- "3v"	<i>Be With Me LORD When I Am in Trouble</i> 7
Hymn of the Day	409 (4v)	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	150 (5v)	<i>Sing v1 LORD Jesus, Thou Art Going Forth</i>
Distribution Hymn	305 (9v)	Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness
Closing Hymn	175 (4v)	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 Jere. 2:1-19 Hosea 13:9-14 Zeph. 3:1-8 Mic. 3:9-12 Isaiah 66:1-9 Zech. 9:1-17  
 Mark 14:32-72 Mark 15:1-19 Mark 15:20-47 John 12:1-19 John 12:20-50 John 13:16-38

**PROPERs for JUDICA SUNDAY ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in LENT MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**INTROIT** Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation. Deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! Send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me, let them bring me to Your Holy Hill. Ps.43

**COLLECT** We beseech You, Almighty God, mercifully look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever,  
**C: J A - -men.**

**GRADUAL C: Deliver me, LORD, from my enemies! Teach me to do Your will! He delivers me from my enemies; You lift me up above those that rise up against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.** ...from Psalm 143

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** (printed on outside back page of the bulletin →)

OT **Genesis 12:1-3** God calls and blesses Abram/Abraham.  
 Ep. **Hebrews 9:11-15** Christ is the Mediator of a New Covenant.  
 Go. **John 8:46-59** Jesus says, "Before Abraham was, I AM."

Next Sunday 3/25 **Palm Sunday (p.5) TLH# 160 (161.1, Ps.91) 162 161.3 361 47**

**Ps. 91 Refrain Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble; Be with me Lord, I pray.**

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the LORD Most High, Who abide in the shadow of our God. Say to the LORD: "My Refuge and Fortress, the God in whom I trust."

**Refrain C: J Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.**

2. No evil shall befall you, no pain come near, For His angels stand close by your side. Guarding you always and bearing you gently, Watching over your life.

**Refrain C: J Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.**

3. Those who cling to the LORD live secure in His love, Lifted high those who trust in His Name. Call on the LORD, He will never forsake you, He will bring you salvation and joy. **C: J BE WITH ME LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE; BE WITH ME LORD, I PRAY.**

**OFFERTORY #150, 1. LORD Jesus, Thou art going forth For Me Thy Life to offer; For me, a sinner from my birth, Who caused all Thou must suffer.**



**So be it, then, Thou Hope of men; Thee I shall follow weeping,**

**Tears flowing free Thy pain to see, Watch o'er Thy sorrows keeping. A-men.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Bill Dumke (RWH Winter Haven)	Bill suffered a heart attack. In WH Hospital	
Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Sue battling pancreas & liver growths. Sad but faithful	
Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Both at home. Jim's BP spikes	
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing	
Angelo Pousa (Tom & Viv Temple's friend)	Angelo received (bad) health news	
Jon Sawyer (Andrea)	Jon Sr back home from rush to TGH. Awaiting transplant	
Rev. Randy VanMehren (Robin)	Pastor VanMehren has hernia surgery Thurs.	
June Weyenberg	June back home doing rehab (knee surgery). Daughter gone	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	Orpha & John Weber	Shirley & DuWayne Marquardt
<b>Treaters/Wed</b>	Elaine Jones/Ethel Wendt	Carolyn & Don Miner

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
<b>Worship Attendance/ L.S. / Wed.</b>	30 / - - / 16	27 / 23
<b>Bible Class Attendance Sun/Wed</b>	5 / 10	8 / 9
<b>Sunday Offering for LORD Su./We.</b>	\$. / \$.	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
<b>Today Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Heb. 13 JC, Whose Kin We Are</b>
<b>Judica  Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Fellowship, Coffee ... Please stay &amp; talk</b>
<b>Peace Bible Study</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>PLL Southside Study on Lutheran Hymns</b>
<b>Wednesday 3/21</b>	<b>4:30, 5:15, 6</b>	<b>Lent5-W Vespers; 5:15 Soup; 6 Bible Study</b>
<b>Next Sunday 3/25</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Heb. 13 JC, Whose Kin We Are</b>
<b>Judica  Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (No Holy Communion)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>10:45 ff...</b>	<b>Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay &amp; talk</b>

Our Savior Elders are: **Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Steve Wendt 858-3611 & Don Wienke 815-8892.** Please contact with your concerns.

**March 18<sup>th</sup> ^ ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018**



In 1917, the merger of three Norwegian Lutheran synods was the "greatest church demonstration ever held by Norwegian Lutherans anywhere in the world." During the days before, a small minority had gathered at the Aberdeen Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following Sunday, the minority who would eventually reorganize as the ELS worshipped with Fairview Lutheran Church (today, King of Grace Lutheran) in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**GREEKS** The **Greeks were eager** to see Jesus; Jesus was **eager to see His Cross**. It happened at the start of Passover week in Jerusalem. Some Greeks had come to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. We don't know anything about them. Perhaps they were simply curious. Seekers. Foreign journalists out to get a story. Or more likely they were the so-called "God-fearers," worshipers of YHWH, but from a distance. Permanent guests at the synagogue. (Greeks were reluctant to receive the mark of circumcision. Who could blame them?)

**BIG, BROAD TERMS** They go to **Phillip**. **He has a Greek name**, so he's the logical one to go to. "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Likely they've heard of His raising Lazarus from the dead. Jerusalem must have been buzzing with the news. Phillip tells **Andrew**, Peter's brother, and together they go to Jesus. The visit of the Greeks prompts Jesus to speak of His death in big and broad terms. His hour had come with the coming of the Greeks; the hour of His glory, His death. As Moses had lifted up a bronze serpent in the wilderness, so must Jesus, the Son of man, be lifted up for the life of the world. And in His being lifted up in death, **He would draw ALL to Himself**.

**ALL** Don't skip over that **all**-inclusive little word. We're accustomed to thinking of salvation (subjectively) in **exclusive**, even **private** terms. **Me and Jesus**. Jesus died **FOR ME**. Jesus loves **me**. He's **my** Savior. **My** Redeemer. **My** Lord. But Jesus is not just the Savior of the salvagable, the Redeemer of the redeemable, the Light for the enlightened, or the Lord of those who have the good fortune to be born into the right religion. **He's the Savior, Redeemer, Light, Lord of the world, the universe, the cosmos**.

**WHEAT KERNEL** Jesus compares His death to a **seed, a kernel of wheat**, that falls into the ground and dies. It must die. If it doesn't die, it remains alone and fruitless. But if it dies, it rises from the ground to produce much fruit and many seeds. You see this in your gardens every year. You take some seeds and bury them. And they die, in a sense. In a few days, if you were dig them up, they wouldn't look like seeds anymore. But leave them alone, and in a couple of weeks they rise and grow to be plants that bear fruit with lots of seeds. And the point is this: **in order for a seed to fulfill its seedy destiny, it must die**. If it doesn't, it remains alone and fruitless.

**DEATH DESTINY** So it is with Jesus. **Death is His destiny**. It's **why He came**. Death and Resurrection is God's way of working. The entire OT teaches that with Israel as the example. The whole world lives, moves, and has its being in the death of the Word, the Son, the second Person of the Trinity. He's **the Lamb who was slain from the foundations of the earth (Revelation 13:8)**. His Hour of Glory is when He shows Himself **dead in darkness on a Cross**. The world lives by the death of Christ. And it's that way with all of us too. We die to live. *"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*

**DISTORTED, DENYING & DUCKING** We live **distorted lives, denying and ducking death, hiding** from it. We love Easter Sunday but stay away from Good Friday. We are drawn to the Open Tomb, but not to the

Cross. We might cringe to hear little ones giving Jesus a hearty **thousand thousand thanks for bleeding and dying**. We try to shelter them from the harshness of death, whether a pet or a loved one. And we fail to teach them the one thing they must know to understand the world in which they live: that **dying is the only way to live** in a fallen world. The **kernel of wheat** must die. **JESUS must die. YOU must die**.

**TRULY FOLLOW** Jesus says that **anyone who serves Him must follow Him**, that means, follow Him **through Cross and tomb to Resurrection**. *"Where I am,"* Jesus says, *"there my servant is too."* There on the Cross. There in the tomb. Risen from the dead. At the right hand of God. You've been crucified with Christ, raised with Christ, seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. It's already an accomplished fact, a done deal in Jesus. His death is your death. His burial your burial. His resurrection your resurrection. His ascension your ascension. And now, as far as God is concerned, your life, that is, your whole life - undistorted - is hidden, buried safely in Christ. All you do to have a life is **drop dead**, like the kernel of wheat dropped into a hole in the ground, which is **hardly much of an accomplishment on your part, is it?**

1. (3 Things Jesus calls His death) Jesus calls His death (1) the **Judgment of the world**. *"Now is the judgment of the world."* But wait(!) Jesus did not come to **judge** the world, **but to SAVE it**. When Jesus died, the world was judged in Jesus. When we say that Jesus died in our place, that doesn't mean that He was on the Cross and we were off somewhere else getting a Coke and a hamburger somewhere. It means that **Jesus embodied you and me**, the whole world **bar none**, in His own Body. *"Christ died for all, and therefore all died."* His death is God's judgment on the world.

**COURTROOM** Think of it this way. You come into a courtroom and the judge looks at you and says, *"What are you doing here? You've already been judged. Your case is closed. Go home."* But you insist it isn't so. You want to argue your case. You have all your papers in order. But the judge won't listen to any of it. He already passed judgment on you one **Friday in an afternoon session between Noon and three**. *"But there must be some mistake,"* you say. *"I wasn't there."* *"Sure you were,"* says the judge, *"As far as I'm concerned, the whole world was there. And I'm not about to reverse my judgment. So go home and have a drink. Or go to jail if you want. But either way the court's adjourned and your case is dismissed."*

2. Jesus calls His death (2) **the Exorcism of the world**. *"Now is the ruler of this world driven out."* The devil may prowl around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. But the only teeth the devil has is the lie that says, "It isn't true." In fact, Mark's version of the Gospel paints the details of Jesus' crucifixion in terms of an exorcism. In the death of Christ, the devil is cast out. (We'll sing just a little later again) *"He can harm us none. He's judged, the deed is done. One little Word can fell him."* (ELH #250, **"A Mighty Fortress"**)

3. Finally, Jesus speaks of His death as (3) **the Death of the world**. *"When I am lifted up I will draw all to myself."* **ALL**. Not **some**. Not the **chosen few**. **ALL**. The good, the bad, (the weird and) the ugly. Everyone from Adam and Eve to the last child born on the last day. We are **ALL** acquitted in the death of Jesus.



### APPLICATION1

So what does this all mean? You want **something practical to take home** with you. Here are **3 THINGS** to put in your doggy bag. **First**, you can see yourself in **a new way, as a NEW CREATURE** in Christ. The old has already gone, the new has already come. You needn't to worry about your salvation; your worry makes you no more acceptable to God. Your life, your whole life is safely hidden in Christ. You're forgiven, free. There is no condemnation for anyone in Jesus. You can throw off those chains others put on you, and you put on yourself. You can step out of the prisons you build for yourself. You can **throw away that sand bag of guilt you carry around** on your shoulders. You can let go of your life and live in Christ. You can live as though you have nothing to lose. Because **Christ already lost it all for you**.

### APPLICATION2

**Second**, you **SEE THE WORLD differently**. You see violence and immorality and oppression. Bad **things**; bad **people**, bad **world**. But the apostle Paul says we no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view. We used to, before Christ died and rose, but no longer. Now you can look at the world as it is in Christ. You can see the world that is already judged, that has been exorcised of the devil, that has been embraced in the death of the Son of God. You can see a world through the lens of the cross of Jesus, a world that is loved in the Beloved. You can let go of your anger and defensiveness, and embrace the world the way God in Christ has embraced it.

### APPLICATION3

**Third**, your **WITNESS takes a different shape**. It's our high and holy privilege to tell the world this juicy piece of very **Good News**. God loves you in Jesus. Jesus died for you. And you died in Jesus. Jesus is **your** Savior. Now we **can make it personal**. No ifs, ands, or buts about it. The life you're looking for so desperately is in Christ. Just **"drop dead"** and trust Him.

### (WORLD'S) BEST JOKE

Witnessing ought to be **like telling a really good joke**. Someone has told you the **best joke you ever heard**, and you LOL. And **you tell everyone** you know the joke. You stop total strangers on the street to tell them. You tell them in the grocery line and at work. Some people have heard the joke before, and **laugh along** with you. They love to hear it over and over again and **never get tired of it**. Others laugh **the instant** you tell them, and **immediately go** out and **tell** others. Some don't get it right away, and look at you sort of puzzled, but then **one day, they get the joke** too (even if you aren't there to see it). And some refuse to get it, don't want to get it, because they don't want to let go and have a good laugh at Jesus' expense.

**ONE DAY...** the whole world will "get it," straight from the **One who was lifted up for the life of the world**. And then those who refuse to see the humor in a death that reconciles a world to God can spend an eternity weeping and grinding their teeth over how good God is in Jesus, while everyone else laughs out loud for joy at the God who forgives and raises the dead in Jesus. -- *"Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all to myself."* **Get it?! IJ'N, Amen.**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Lent-5 Judica ✕ Judge (me) Lord, by Christ**

### Possible Prayer of the Church 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Judica ✕ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible brief silence)*

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die for the sins of the world. In His earthly ministry, He suffered much persecution for the sake of our salvation. As You ministered to Him in His time of need, so minister to those around the world who suffer for Your name's sake. Protect them from every danger to body and soul. Strengthen them through Your Word to make the good confession without fear. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We thank You, merciful Father, for our partner churches around the world who share in our blessed fellowship around altar, font and pulpit. Give us lips to sing Your glory and tongues to speak Your holy name. Always keep us steadfast in the saving doctrine of the blessed apostles drawn from Your holy Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy Father, continue to bless all pastors in Christ, especially those who are given tasks of administration among us, our Synod president; our circuit visitor. Keep them ever focused on the one thing needful: **the Forgiveness of sins** given in the innocent suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty Father, we thank You for the gift of family and for all relations and friends You give to us. Grant Your blessing upon all families, and give to them what they need for the nourishment of their bodies. Especially do we pray for the nourishment of their souls in the gifts of forgiveness and life given in Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Merciful Lord, You loved us when we were far off and granted us Your salvation, though our sins brought Your Son to the cross. We pray for our enemies and all who hate us. Take all bitterness from our hearts, that we may forgive those who trespass against us as You richly forgive us every day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Bless all who suffer in body and soul [especially OSL Prayer List] with Your healing hand. According to Your will, return them to good health and sound strength. Give to each of us every good thing that we need to support us in this earthly life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of our sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, dear Father, and to Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen. Then, Lord's Supper**