

Old Testament

II Samuel 22:1-7 NIV David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. 2 He said: "The LORD is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer; 3 my God is my Rock, in whom I take refuge, my Shield and the Horn of my Salvation. He is my Stronghold, my Refuge and my Savior - from violent men You save me. 4 I call to the LORD, Who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. 5 "The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. 6 The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. 7 In my distress I called to the LORD; I called out to my God. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came to His ears.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1-9 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth).

Historic Gospel

Luke 11:14-28 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, He is driving out demons." 16 Others tested Him by asking for a sign from Heaven. 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. 19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come to you. 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. 23 "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. 24 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' 25 When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first." 27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave You birth and nursed You." 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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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 17th, 2019 ✳ Lent-3C ☩ Oculi ☉☉ Faith by Sight

ORDER OF WORSHIP On the gold liturgy sheets or in red TLH Hymnal on p.5

Suggested Hymn	TLH# (#v)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	32 (4v)	Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven
Gloria Hymn Verse	158 (6v)	Sing v.1 Glory Be to Jesus, Who in bitter 7
Psalm 91	Ps. 91 "3v"	Be With Me LORD When I Am in Trouble 7
Hymn of the Day	263 (4v)	O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe
Offertory Verse	158 (6v)	Sing v.3 Blest through endless ages ... →
Third Hymn	154 (5v)	Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed
Closing Hymn	354 (4v)	In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after the 3rd Sunday in Lent

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Numbers22:2-41	Num.23:1-30	Num.24:1-13	Num. 27:12-23	Deut. 5:1-33	Deut. 8:1-20
Luke 18:15-30	Luke 19:1-40	Luke20:1-21:4	Luke21:37-22:38	Luke22:39-71	Luke 23:1-25

PROPERs for OCULI ☉☉ SUNDAY 3rd of LENT MARCH 24TH

INTROIT Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn to me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed. ...from Psalm 25

COLLECT We beseech You, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit... **C: J A - - men.**

GRADUAL C: Arise, O Lord! Let not man prevail; let the heathen be judged in Your sight. When my enemies are turned back, they will fall and perish at Your presence. Ps.141

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

O.T. **II Samuel 22:1-7** David sang this psalm to God, *A Mighty Fortress.*

Epi. **Ephesians 5:1-9** "Be imitators of God" - Live as children of light.

Gos. **Luke 11:14-28** Jesus is stronger than Beelzebub & expels a demon.

3-Year Gospel Luke 13:1-9 (Sermon) Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." 6 Then He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Psalm 91 REF. BE WITH ME LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE; BE WITH ME LORD, I PRAY

Refrain C: J 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.**

#158 GLORIA: 1. Glory be to Jesus, - Who in bitter pains Poured for me the Life-Blood - From His sacred Veins!

OFFERTORY: 3. Blest through endless ages - Be the precious stream Which from endless torments - Did the world redeem. (A-men)

PRAYER REQUESTS: (Member or Relation)	Pray for...
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee - rehabbing. David working & helping Mom
Larry Rector (friend of Ron & Fay Schulz)	Underwent tests for Parkinsons
Jon & Andrea Sawyer	Jon doing schooling. Andrea hoping to return to Geico
Vivian Temple (Tom)	Vivian is at home recovering. Tom is helping her
John Weber (Orpha) PTL	John had (successful) aneurism surgery. Recovering
James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Jim had a procedure on his L5 lumbar
Wendt family (Steve, Ethel & kin)	Comfort for family. Grandma passed
Frances (Barb Wolkens' sister)	PTL. Frances had surgery. Recovering well

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Joan Patrick	Mary Lou Knigge
Treaters S/W	Sun: Pot. / Wed: Joan & Mq	Sun: / Wed: .

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
Sun. / Wed. Attendance (L.S.)	31 / (30) 19	28 / 22
Bible Class Attendance: Sun.Wed.	7, --	10, 9
Sunday Offering (Needed) & YTD	\$1,310+320(1.3K)	YTD \$13,361.(13.3K)

Calendar of Events		
Today, March 24 th	8:30 am	BibleStudy Key Symbols: Idolatry/Adult.
Oculi ☉☉ Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Communion)
3 rd Sunday in Lent	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Potluck Brunch & Fellowship ...
Wednesday 3/27	4:30, 5:15, 6	Lent-3Wed. Vespers; 5:15 Soup; 6 Bible St.
Thursday 3/28	1:30 pm	ReRescheduled OSL March Council Meeting
Friday, Saturday	Fri.PM, Sat	'FLY' Youth at Medieval Times, Bowling
Next Sunday 3/31	8:30 am	BibleStudy Key Symbols: Light & Dark.
Laetare ☺ Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
4 th Sunday in Lent	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... Stay!

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892

✳ (Vivian has placed) Sign-up sheet for **Easter Mums**. Please sign up in the hall.

Sunday 3/31 **Laetare Lent-4C (LS p.15) # 296 (158.1; Ps.91) 312 158.4 316 54**

Lent3 Oculi Luke 13:1-9 *“(IN RESPONSE TO TRAGEDY)...REPENT!”* **03.24.19 OSL**

WHAT TO DO IN TRADEGY? What is the appropriate response to tragedy? To innocent suffering and death? To Flooding? Cyclones? Earthquakes? Tsunamis? What about mass shootings? To the 4000 killed on 9/11 in the US? **How do God’s people respond?**

BLOODSHED The question was on the minds of those who came to Jesus and told Him about a religious and political atrocity - some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. A terrible act of oppression. An outrage. The people expected Jesus to be outraged.

FLIP-IT Instead, Jesus poses a question. *“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered so?”*

JUST DESERTS(?) **What do YOU think?** Do sin and suffering go together, like crime and punishment? Most people of Jesus’ day thought that way. Those who sin are destined to suffer; those who suffered must have sinned. It’s pretty **simple moral arithmetic**. That’s how **Job’s three friends** analyzed Job’s misery. He must have sinned. That’s how Jesus’ disciples reacted to a man born blind. *“Who sinned, this man or his parents?”*

CRYSTAL BALL **After tragedies, either manmade or natural**, there are always some, usually of the moralistic stripe, who will point the finger at all those “sinners” out there who brought this calamity on ourselves. It happens whenever we have an earthquake or devastating fire. It happened on 9/11. And it happens today. We try to read the headlines like tea leaves, trying to figure out what is God trying to tell us?

HOT TOPIC / HOTBED The Galilean incident was a hot political topic. Galilee was a hotbed of messianic freedom fighters, zealots for independence from Rome. Many of them would have been right at home with today’s religious and political terrorists. People who take up righteous causes usually feel righteous for having taken up a righteous cause. You’re even more justified in dying for the cause. You might even get an express ticket to paradise in that way of thinking. And so the question posed to Jesus is not entirely innocent. They want to get **a read on Jesus’ politics**, His Messianic ambitions, His plans for overthrowing Roman rule. **What did He think of this atrocity? Was God on their side or not? Why did God let this happen?**

ACT-OF-GOD? **Jesus goes to politically neutral ground**. Forget about the Galileans and Pilate for a moment. What about the tower in Siloam that toppled over and killed eighteen people. The insurance companies call those things **“Acts of God,”** even though our courts don’t officially believe in God in this country any more. **Freak accidents. Dumb**

luck. Being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Again, Jesus poses the question: *“Waddy think? Do you think those people who were killed were worse sinners than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?”*

TOUGH-? That’s a little tougher, isn’t it? The Galileans may have been part of an uprising against the Roman government. They put themselves at risk. But a tower toppling on people is a random disaster. Innocent people in the wrong place at the wrong time. Could happen to anyone.

?WHY, GOD? A overpass collapses. A support cable snaps. A spark explodes a fuel tank in a jumbo jet. A car swerves out of control. An experienced fireman is trapped in a burning building. A tiny glitch in a DNA strand turns a brain cell cancerous. **And we wonder why? Why do these things happen? What do they mean? What is God trying to tell us? How do we respond?**

DEATH HAPPENS *“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”* The response to sudden and tragic death - whether political, religious, man made or natural, is **REpentance**. To repent is to **REthink**, the word literally means to come to a different mind. **REcognize**. Recognize that death, even tragic death, isn’t the worst thing that could happen to you. Death is the sign that things are not right between God and us. *“The wages of sin is death.”* And unless we repent, we will be worse off than the Galileans in the temple or the eighteen killed by Siloam’s falling tower.

DEATH IS NOT THE END-ALL ... **Repentance is the end of all questions**. And of all **judgments**. Judgment is with God, not with us. The issue is God’s justice and His mercy. *“The wages of sin is death.”* *“The soul that sins will die.”* That is God’s justice. *“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.”* That is God’s mercy. God hates sin and kills the sinner. That is His justice. God also forgives sin and justifies the sinner in His Son Jesus Christ. **That’s His mercy.**

(LUTHER) **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** Repentance here **doesn’t** mean “clean up your act.” Jesus is clear that those who died were no better or worse than anyone else. Repentance here means to take a different perspective on things, on God and on yourself. The people who came to Jesus were dealing with Him according to the Law. They were questioning God’s justice. How could God allow those noble Galileans to die? How could He allow His temple to be desecrated?

WHAT I/WE DESERVE Behind that thinking is the idea that people should get what they deserve. But stop and think. **Do you really want God to dish out this justice to you?** And if you think that would be a good idea, maybe you haven’t spent enough Lent time with the **Ten Commandments**. Look in their mirror, and ask yourself, *“Do I really want to get what I deserve?”* **Hell** is where everyone gets what they deserve.

MISERICORDIAS DOMINI In God's mercy Jesus Christ got what we deserve. "He was made sin for us who knew no sin." He did justice to our sin, becoming our sin, dying for our sin, so that in Him "we might become the righteousness of God."

CEASE AND DESIST To repent means **we cease and desist from justifying ourselves**. We no longer try to make our case before the bar of divine justice. Once we saw God as judge and ourselves as good, upright, religious people deserving justice from a just God. But now in repentance, our minds are changed; your viewpoint is changed. We see God as Savior and ourselves as sinners seeking mercy. And we trust the promise of God in the death and Resurrection of Jesus, that by the blood of Jesus sinners are forgiven and the unrighteous are justified.

"IT'S LIKE THIS" Jesus drives the point home with a **Parable**. A man planted a fig tree in his backyard. For three years, he came looking for figs and found none. In frustration, **the owner, who is the spokesman for God's justice**, says, "This tree is worthless. It hasn't produced a darn thing. It's a waste of good soil and space. It doesn't even throw any decent shade. Cut it down."

LAW = And that's pretty much how it is with **the Law - produce or die**. "Do this, and you will live." Grace and every blessing to all who keep the commandments. And if you fail, well, the axe is laid to the root my friend. That's how the Law works. The good are rewarded, the bad are punished. That's fair, isn't it? It is, until you're the fruitless fig tree. And the axe is about to be swung at your root.

FORGIVE THE TREE **The gardener, who is a spokesman for God's mercy**, has a different plan. "Hold on. Put the axe down for a minute. I've got an idea. Let's leave it be. (The word here for "leave it be" is actually the word "forgive.") "Let's **forgive the tree**. Instead of chopping it down, I'll dig around its roots and put on some fertilizer and we'll see what happens." That's how it goes with the mercy of God - forgive and feed.

JERUSALEM ON HIS MIND Jesus was speaking **this parable with Jerusalem in view**. Jerusalem was the fig tree planted in vineyard Israel. Year after year, God came seeking the fruit of faith, of trust in His promise, of faithfulness and mercy. Year after year, there was nothing but fruitless religion and politics as usual. He gives it one more year. But it is a year of grace, of forgiveness and feeding, because that's how God works. He is slow to anger and abounding in mercy.

L/G: NOW IS THE TIME... There is both **warning and promise here, both Law and Gospel**, as you would expect from Jesus. Don't presume on God's mercy, and don't let His kindness serve as an excuse

for fruitless lives of sin. Jerusalem has but one more year. Time is running out. And yet, there is promise, because the Lord of the vineyard does not want to destroy anything He has planted. He's loathe to do it. **He wants all to be saved and come** to the knowledge of the Truth which is in Jesus Christ. The time of forgiveness and feeding is now. Now is the time of your salvation (**BANNER**). Don't squander it, don't let it pass thinking there's always next week or next month or next year. God deals only in the present tense. He is the eternal I AM.

+ (ALL POINTS TO) **CROSS** The **Tower of Siloam**, the blood of the Galileans all point to one thing: a **Cross outside** the city gates of Jerusalem on a dark Friday afternoon when God did justice to our sins in mercy and reconciled the whole world to Himself. Another Galilean killed by Pilate. He wasn't the first. Only this time, that Galilean was completely innocent, and **His blood was poured out as the one, atoning Sacrifice for the sin of the whole world**. The tower of Siloam fell on people, killing them. But the Cross of Jesus lifts up the world. "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself." This is the one Death where every death finds its meaning and redemption. This is the Death that embraced all of us in our death - slaughtered Galileans, those on whom the tower fell, every victim of oppression, genocide, violence, tragedy. Every death finds its meaning, its purpose, its fulfillment in the death of **Jesus on the Cross**.

ONE MORE TIME Let's pose the question from the beginning again. **Look at Jesus in His awful death - Consider the cruelty, the injustice, the suffering** - Was he a **worse Offender** than all the others?! No. **He was innocent**, sinless, perfect. And yes. For our sake, in our place, for us and for our salvation, He became our sin, He embodied our sin in His sinless Body, so that we, Baptized into His death and believing in His Name, might become righteousness children of God.

SHOOT OF JESSE Jesus was the One **Fruitful "Tree" cut down to save** the fruitless. His Word, His Body and His Blood are food for all the fruitless fig trees of this world, sinners the likes of you and me, giving life, forgiving and feeding, making them fruitful.

B 4GIVEN. B FED So you hear of tragic death on the news, or disaster hits dangerously close to home, there's only one thing to do. **Repent. Confess your sin. Seek God's mercy. Be forgiven. Be fed.**

HOW WILL IT(I) END? Then let the towers tumble and the Pilates of this world do whatever they will. "They can harm us none." We all must die one day - of one thing or another, whether tragically or quietly. But with Jesus' forgiveness, with His Body and Blood, trusting in His mercy, you will not perish, but will rise as fruitful trees planted forever in the Lord's vineyard. **IJ'N, Amen. SDG**