

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent: April 6 & 7, 2025**

**Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Printed copies of the sermon are available on the tract desk.
- Large Print Service binders can be found on the tract desk.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255- 258 in the hymnal.
- For a personal preparation for Holy Communion, please see pages 295-296 in your hymnal.

**Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on**

**YouTube.[www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar)**

Our Lord teaches in his Word that in Communion we receive Jesus' true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, and that participation is also a declaration that we believe what our fellow communicants believe. In obedience to God's Word,

then, we ask that only those who agree on all points of teaching—those who belong to a WELS or ELS church—and are confirmed partake in the Lord's Supper today. If you are not a member of a WELS or ELS church but would like to pursue that unity of faith, or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor.

### **Setting 3, pg. 188**

#### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday 04/06/2025	9:00 AM Communion Worship 10:15 AM Bible Class 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Choir Practice
Monday 04/07/2025 Worship	7:00 PM Communion
Tuesday 04/08/2025	6:30 PM Church Council
Wednesday 04/09/2025	5:30 PM Casserole Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Wed. Service
Friday 04/11/2025	6:30 PM Euchre
Saturday 04/12/2025	9:30 AM ARBOR DAY
Sunday 04/13/2025	9:00 AM Worship Service
Monday 04/14/2025	7:00 PM Worship Service

## Attendance

Sunday Service: 108, Monday Service: 14, Bible Class: 52,  
Sunday School: 11, Lenten Worship: 35

## Our **Time** to Our Lord

**The SPRING ARBOR DAY for the church & parsonage is scheduled for April 12th @ 9:30am (weather permitting). Volunteers are welcome.**

**April 9th Lent Fellowship:** Wednesday April 9th is our last Lent fellowship before Holy Week. We will be having a Casserole Potluck Dinner at 5PM before our service that evening. A signup sheet is posted in the entryway at church. Contact Rose Walker with any questions. All are invited to come and share food and fellowship.

‡ A free will offering will be gathered and will be given to the **Technology Fund at School.**

*Thank you to all who have volunteered for and attended our Lent fellowships!*



**Easter Flowers:** If you would like to donate plants/flowers for our Easter services, please drop them off to the fellowship hall or altar guild room **no later**

**than Saturday, April 19th by noon.** Spring plants such as lilies, tulips, daffodils, etc. are all welcome. Contact Kerri Hubbard with any questions.

## Our **Talents** to Our Lord

### **APRIL SERVERS**

**April Sunday Ushers:** Paul and Silas Schultz, Carter Korthals, Eric Korthals

**April Communion Elder:** Paul Schultz

**April Finance:** Gabe Fall, Sam Korthals, Carter Korthals

**April Altar Guild:** Kerri Hubbard and Jennifer LaPratt

**Organist:** Olivia Marker



## Our **Treasures** to Our Lord

Last Week's Budgetary Gifts: \$5,560.00

Sunday School: \$10.00

Tuition: \$500.00

**All mission minded ladies, men, and students** are invited to join us for the morning presentation, a noon luncheon and fellowship, Business meeting to follow.

**THUMB CIRCUIT**  
**SPRING RALLY April 12, 2025**

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3169 North Branch Rd.  
North Branch, MI 48461  
Registration – 9:00 AM

**Mite Boxes Must Be Returned by Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
(They will be turned in the following day at the rally)

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**510 In Christ Alone**

CW 510

- 1 In Christ alone my hope is found;  
he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all;  
here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe;  
this gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones he came to save.

Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
 the wrath of God was satisfied;  
     for ev'ry sin on him was laid;  
     here in the death of Christ I live.

3     There in the ground his body lay,  
       light of the world by darkness slain;  
 then bursting forth in glorious day,  
     up from the grave he rose again!  
 And as he stands in victory,  
 sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
     for I am his and he is mine,  
     bought with the precious blood of Christ.

*Please stand for the final stanza*

4     No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
       this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
 from life's first cry to final breath,  
     Jesus commands my destiny.  
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
 can ever pluck me from his hand;  
     till he returns or calls me home,  
     here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,  
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and  
forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a  
sinner.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**



## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

***Refrain:*** Glory to God in the highest, glory to God,  
and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his  
people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we  
worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have  
mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy  
Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 43:16–21*

<sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD says,  
who makes a road through the sea  
and a path through mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup>who brings out the chariot and the horses,  
the army and the strong warrior.  
They will all lie down together.  
They will not get up.  
They are extinguished.  
Like a wick they go out.  
<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things.  
Do not keep thinking about ancient things.  
<sup>19</sup>Watch, I am about to do a new thing.

Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it?  
 Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness.  
 In the wasteland I will make rivers.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will  
 honor me,  
 because I am providing water in the wilderness,  
 rivers in a parched wasteland,  
 water for my chosen people to drink.  
<sup>21</sup>This people that I formed for myself will  
 declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **73 God Is the Strength of My Heart**

*Psalm 73*

*Refrain*

**God is the strength of my heart and my portion  
 forever.**

As for me, my feet had / almost slipped;

I had nearly lost my / foothold.

For I envied the / arrogant

when I saw the prosperity of the / wicked.

It troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary / of  
 God;

then I understood their final / destiny. *Refrain*

You guide me with your / counsel,  
 and afterward you will take me into / glory.  
 Whom have I in / heav'n but you?  
 And earth has nothing I desire be- / sides you.  
 My flesh and my / heart may fail,  
 but God is the strength of my heart and my portion  
 for- / ever.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
 and to the Holy / Spirit,  
 as it was in the be- / ginning,  
 is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

## **Second Reading**

*Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks that he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>in regard to zeal, persecuting the church; in regard to the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>But, whatever things were a profit for me, these things I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even more than that, I consider everything to be a loss because of what is worth far more: knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake, I have lost all things and consider them rubbish, so that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be

found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, which comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God by faith. <sup>10</sup>I do this so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, <sup>11</sup>in the hope that in some way I may arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Psalm 118:22*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Gospel**

*Luke 20:9–19*

<sup>9</sup>He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. <sup>10</sup>When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup>The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup>He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. <sup>13</sup>The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. Perhaps they will respect him.’

<sup>14</sup>“But when the tenant farmers saw him, they talked it over with one another. They said, ‘This is the heir. Let's kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>15</sup>They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others.”

When they heard this, they said, “May it never be!”

<sup>17</sup>But he looked at them and said, “Then what about this that is written:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

<sup>18</sup>“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush the one on whom it falls.”

<sup>19</sup>That very hour the chief priests and the experts in the law began looking for a way to lay hands on him, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*(Be seated)*

**571 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth**

CW 571

1 O God, O Lord of heav’n and earth,  
     your living finger never wrote  
     that life should be an aimless mote,  
 a deathward drift from futile birth.

    Your Word meant life triumphant hurled  
     in splendor through your broken world;  
 ere light awoke and life began,  
 you made for us a holy plan.

- 2 In blind revolt we would not see  
that rebel wills wrought death and night.  
We seized and used in fear and spite  
your wondrous gift of liberty.  
We walled us in this house of doom,  
where death had royal scope and room,  
until your servant, Prince of Peace,  
broke down its walls for our release.
- 3 You came into our hall of death,  
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
to drink for us the deep despair  
that strangled our reluctant breath.  
How beautiful the feet that trod  
the road to bring good news from God!  
How beautiful the feet that bring  
good tidings of our saving King!
- 4 O Spirit, who did once restore  
the church that it might yet recall  
the one who brings good news to all:  
breathe on your cloven church once more  
that in these gray and latter days  
there may be those whose life is praise,  
each life a high doxology  
unto the holy Trinity.



Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.

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## **Sermon**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

**Be Confident in Christ**

**I. We bring nothing (4b-8)**

**II. Christ brings everything (9-11)**

**III. Go forward in confidence (12-14)**

**(Stand)**

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son  
of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from  
heaven,**

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(Be seated)*

## Prayer of the Church

### Offering

## THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast.

Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is

my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

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

### **Lamb of God**

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

*(Be seated)*

### **Distribution**

*(As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:)*

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

*(As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:)*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

**Amen.**

## **570 God Loved the World So That He Gave**

CW 570

- 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 is the solid rock of faith,  
who was made flesh and suffered death.  
All who confide 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  
that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
forgives the sins that you have done.  
You're justified by Jesus' blood;  
baptized, you are a child of God.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;  
this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessèd Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

### **861 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head**

CW 861

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head,  
you are her one foundation;  
in you she trusts, before you bows,  
and waits for your salvation.  
Built on this rock secure,



your Church shall endure  
though all the world decay  
and all things pass away.

O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

2 O Lord, let this your little flock,  
your name alone confessing,  
continue in your loving care,  
true unity possessing.  
Your sacraments, O Lord,  
and your saving Word  
to us e'er pure retain;  
grant that they may remain  
our only strength and comfort.

3 Help us to serve you evermore  
with hearts both pure and lowly;  
and may your Word, that light divine,  
shine on in splendor holy  
that we repentance show,  
in faith ever grow;  
the pow'r of sin destroy  
and evils that annoy.  
O make us faithful Christians.

4 And for your gospel let us dare  
 to sacrifice all treasure;  
 teach us to bear your blessed cross,  
 to find in you all pleasure.  
 O grant us steadfastness  
 in joy and distress.  
 Lord, for your mercy's sake,  
 let us by grace partake  
 of endless joy and glory.

**(Stand)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 409 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

CW 409

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
     blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
 fountain in life's desert dreary,  
     Savior from the world above,  
 often have your eyes, offended,  
     gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
 yet, upon the cross extended,  
     you endured the pain of all.
  
- 2 Dare we pass that cross unheeding,  
     breathing no repentant vow,  
 as we see you wounded, bleeding,  
     see your thorn-encircled brow?  
 Since your sinless death has brought us  
     life eternal, peace, and rest,  
 only what your grace has taught us  
     calms the sinner's deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
 with more fervent love for you!  
 May our eyes be ever turning  
 to behold your cross anew,  
 till in glory, parted never  
 from the blessèd Savior's side,  
 graven in our hearts forever  
 dwell the cross, the Crucified!

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.

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#### Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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*God. Fidence*

Knowing I can't but ~~He~~ can