

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973

Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]

Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com

Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Nancy Newkirk, Cindy Terrell

The Organist – Ruth Meyer

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd

The Acolyte – Tim Meyer

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay

The Altar Guild – Vanessa Clifford, Mickey Milburn, Jacki Lay, Margie Zak

The Organist – Ruth Meyer

TO OUR VISITORS - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless you, together with us, as we give our attention to the Word of God this morning. *** Please sign the GUEST REGISTER [*please also include your address*] in the NARTHEX as you leave the church.

HOLY COMMUNION STATEMENT AND POLICY: It is our expressed belief, confidence and joy that the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, present under the bread and wine, are distributed in the Lord's Supper. All who commune at His altar are to be in complete confessional agreement with the other communicants. This practice of Closed Communion is an evangelical expression of our love for the communicant and for Christ's Holy Supper. In accordance with the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:27-29, we only permit members of this congregation, as well as members of fellow Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregations, to commune today. If your membership is with a different faith group, so that you have a belief which differs from our belief and confession on Holy Communion, then we kindly ask you in love to refrain from communing today and first speak with Pastor or an Elder. Members of our congregation who wish to commune are asked to sign the communion registration sheet in the Narthex.

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION - PAGE 15 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

(Our visitors are asked to please read and honor our communion statement above.)

SILENT PRAYER upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear Your Holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

**SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS –
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Jesus Is Our Redemption In the temple Jesus said, “*If anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.*” (*John 8:51*) For Jesus came to taste death for us – to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. His Word has delivered us from death’s sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our Great High Priest, Who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people. (*Hebrews 9:11-15*) He is before Abraham and yet is his Descendant. He is the promised Son Who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, Who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram Who is offered in our place, Who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and Who wears the crown of thorns upon His head. (*Genesis 22:1-14*) Though dishonored by the sons of the devil, Jesus is vindicated by the Father through the cross. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: The Pharisees held themselves to be judges over the teaching of Jesus. Today many religious leaders do the same. We, according to our Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord, hold God’s Word as judge over such false teachers.

The only rule and norm according to which all teachings and teachers should be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. They are the only judge, rule, and norm. According to them, all teachings shall and must be discerned and judged to see whether they are good or evil, right or wrong.

After the time of the apostles, false teachers arose. Therefore, symbols, or concise confessions of faith, were written against heretics in the early Church. These symbols were regarded as the unanimous, universal Christian faith and confession of the orthodox and true Church. They are the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. We pledge ourselves to these symbols, rejecting all heresies and teachings that have been introduced into God’s Church against them.

Schisms in matters of faith have also happened in our time. Therefore, we regard as the unanimous consensus and declaration of our Christian faith and confession – especially against the papacy and its false worship, idolatry and against other sects – the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession and its Apology*, the *Smalcald Articles*, the *Small and Large Catechisms*, the *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope* and the *Formula of Concord*. Whatever is contrary to these confessions is to be rejected and condemned, as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith. (*Epitome of the Formula of Concord, Summary*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 342

**PREPATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION AND SERVICE OF THE WORD
[PAGE 15 TO 23/FRONT OF HYMNAL]**


INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! For You are the God in Whom I take refuge. Send me Your light and Your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding Joy, and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God. Why are you downcast, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall praise Him again, my Salvation and my God. (*Psalms 43:1-5*)

CONGREGATION: ♪ Glory be to the Father....

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, Your beloved Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, says, “Whoever keeps My Word will never see death.” We beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that, truly knowing and believing in Your Son, we may trust His Word, keep it in all faithfulness, depend on it with our whole heart and be comforted by it in our last hour before entering into everlasting life; for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – GENESIS 22:1-14

P: ^{22:1} After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So both of them went together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide;” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ And the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your Offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)

EPISTLE LESSON – HEBREWS 9:11-15

P: ^{9:11} But when Christ appeared as a High Priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.


¹⁵ Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON – JOHN 8:37-59

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

C:  **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

P: [Jesus said to the Jews:] ^{8:37} I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My Word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹ They answered Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill Me, a man Who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father – even God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of My own accord, but He sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My Word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

⁴⁸ The Jews answered Him, “Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One Who seeks it, and He is the Judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet You say, ‘If anyone keeps My Word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father Who glorifies Me, of Whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵ But you have not known Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His Word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

NICENE CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 22]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 142:1-3, 6

SERMON: BELIEVE IN JESUS AS ABRAHAM DID, YOU HIS TRUE HEIRS – GEN. 22 & JN. 8

Jesus said: “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.” (Jn. 8:51) Amen.

The grace, mercy and peace of Jesus Christ rest upon every one of you this day. Amen. The Lord God of heaven and earth tests the faith of His servant, Abraham. God finds Abraham’s faith to be rock-solid since He Himself made it to be so by His living Word. The Holy Son of God tests the faith of His fellow Hebrews. He finds the faith of all who scoff at Him to be dead as a doornail. Both Abraham and all his descendants ought to share the same fervent faith in the Lord. As a spiritual descendent of your father-in-the-faith, Abraham, you also sure ought to share in his firm faith in God and His Son, in the Spirit. By the grace of God in Christ Jesus, you do! Yet the people who face off with the Lord in our Gospel reading treat the only Son from heaven in a despicable, terrible way! How come? Why aren’t they anything like the man they should be the spiritual spitting image of: Abraham? Let’s dig into our Old Testament and Gospel lessons and find out.

To appreciate the faith of the patriarch or father of Israel and of all God’s people of all times and places, it’s necessary to see just how Abraham’s godly, eternal life-giving faith came about. Genesis 12:1-4 relates: *“Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him....”* Abraham, or Abram, as he was first known, heard the Almighty’s call to leave where he was and to follow Him, going wherever He directed him. God even made Abraham a series of promises – every one of which He kept.

The final point on God blessing the whole world in Abraham is of particular importance as the Lord would go on to elaborate on it, as we heard in the Old Testament lesson. God declared to Abraham: *“In your Offspring shall all the*

nations of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 22:18) The Apostle St. Paul, under divine inspiration, teaches us the tremendous meaning of this: "The promises were spoken [by God] to Abraham and to his Seed. The Scripture does not say, 'and to seeds,' meaning many, but 'and to your Seed,' meaning One, Who is Christ." (Gal. 3:16) So God is telling Abraham, all Israel to come from his loins and us too that He'll deliver and save all nations by none other than Abraham's Descendent or Seed: Christ the Lord!

Abraham was childless and quite aged. He figured God would make his servant Eliezer his heir, so that God's Promise would be fulfilled in Eliezer and his descendants. God said no to this, assuring Abraham: "Your very own son shall be your heir." (Gen. 15:4) After God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the heavens, we hear among the most important words in the entire Old Testament: "[Abraham] believed the Lord, and [the Lord] counted it to him as righteousness." (Gen. 15:6)

God's sure Gospel Promise to save all nations through Abraham's Seed – Christ – and Abraham's trust in God and His Word, taken together, show that Abraham was eternally saved unto God by his God-given faith in the Son of God. Just as Abraham firmly believed that his salvation was found in his own Seed to come, so were all Abraham's decedents to believe – along with him – that all those Whom God loves and favors He loves and favors in His only-begotten Son alone.

So in our Gospel lesson, the Jews who're bitterly confronting Jesus should really be receiving His words as the eternal, saving truth that they are. For Christ Himself says of them, "The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life." (Jn. 6:63) Those opposed to Him should really be hearing the Word of Christ as the one-and-only Word which saves them from their sins unto God their heavenly Father. They should also be regarding God the Son just as Abraham regarded Him: As the One sent from heaven to teach them the true doctrine of life and salvation from God above.

Later Jesus says to the people, "If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:31-32) since, if the Son of God sets you free from your slavery to sin and death, "you will be free indeed." (Jn. 8:36) Sadly, they wish to remain slaves to sin, death and their father, the devil.

But why? Why not just be like Abraham and actually "trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock?" (Is. 26:4) Is that so very hard to do? Actually, for them, for us, yes it is! Saving faith in Jesus isn't just something that comes to you naturally or something that you choose, make your own or grasp only after a great spiritual struggle. It's a precious gift from God which, like all gifts, is to be gladly received. But it can also be coldly rejected, and therein lies the problem for Jesus' callous opponents.

Godly faith isn't just hard for us to come by, it's impossible! Yet God's Word assures us how saving faith comes by us: "With man this impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Mt. 19:26)

Two obstacles obstruct too many of the Jews in Jesus' day from believing in Him. Both of these obstacles have been put up by Jesus' attackers themselves – not by God.

Obstacle number one is the truth that God the Father has sent His divine, eternal Son to us in our own flesh and blood to bear our sin and be our Savior. Those who trash Jesus however they can – calling Him a half-breed Samaritan and demon-possessed – refuse to believe that He's the Son of God and Savior of mankind. For them it's contemptible to believe that their God has actually come to them as a man to redeem them from sin, death and hell. Never mind that they all know that their father Abraham was promised by God that the Savior of Israel and the world would be born from his own lineage. Never mind that the Prophet Isaiah foretold that the Servant of the Lord would be "highly exalted and lifted up," (Is. 52:13) meaning that Christ the Lord shares in the eternal glory of His Father. And that Jesus, as God's suffering Servant, would be high and lifted up upon the cross for our salvation! The reason why they refuse Jesus as their Savior is that they, in His words, "cannot bear to bear My Word." (Jn. 8:43) They can't stand Jesus and His Word. They're doomed as a result.

The second barrier to God that the Jews have built for themselves is the false belief that, by keeping God's Holy Law, they can earn His favor and heaven. But the Law of God only brings His wrath upon sinners like them and us. (See Rom. 4:15) Seeking salvation by fulfilling God's righteous demands – call it pacifying a vicious, merciless attack dog, is always a dead-end! As for you, believe God's Word alone! Firmly trust that "Christ is the end of the Law to bring righteousness to everyone who believes." (Rom. 10:4) For Christ Jesus has fulfilled the whole Law of God for you without flaw on His holy cross, giving His righteousness and salvation to you as a gift, by faith alone. Tragically, the hard-hearted Jews who push back at Jesus so vehemently want nothing to do with faith in Him, bringing down

condemnation upon themselves. It doesn't have to be this way and shouldn't be. They should all be Abrahams, but many of them just aren't, nor will they be.

As for you, be Abrahams – be firm, joyful believers in Jesus your Savior-God! When Abraham was commanded by God to take his only son Issac, whom he loved, and to go *“to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering,”* (Gen. 22:2) he didn't reject God's Word and refuse to believe Him. God had already promised him the impossible by guaranteeing him a son in his and his wife Sarah's old age. And Isaac was born to them! Since God had done this, and furthermore had declared to Abraham that Isaac would be his sole heir, Abraham trusted that God would see to his son's life one way or another – even if Isaac was sacrificed by his hand! So either God would *“provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering”* (Gen. 22:8) – as Abraham told Isaac He would, or God would raise a slain Isaac from the dead. For Hebrews 11:17-19 says, *“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”*

Since our obstinate nature mirrors that of the hostile Jews in John 8, we also need what they needed. Praise God that we also get what they got: the Lord Jesus! We must never forsake Him forever as they did. Together with Abraham, we must trust in Him as our eternal Rock of salvation – for that's Who He is! We must love and cherish our Savior always! And since we so shamefully offend God's holiness with the rot of our rebellion and stir up His wrath by our disobedience to Him, what greater need can we possibly have than for His divine mercy? You might say Abraham spoke more than he knew when he said to his boy Isaac, *“God will provide...the lamb for burnt offering.”* (Gen. 22:8) Actually, he spoke prophetically, for God indeed provided His own dear Lamb for a burnt offering. *“Jesus [endured] the Father's flaming wrath for [our] sins.”* Christ *“the Passover Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world [was] roasted for you upon the cross.”* (*Spiritual Contemplation of Christ's Suffering: A Lenten Devotion, Thursday, Lent 4, '24*) Isaac was spared, saved by more than a ram caught in a thicket. Just like He did for you, Christ died in Isaac's place, making Jesus the “Issac of the New Testament.”

God tested Abraham's faith in order for him to rely on his Lord alone and not on himself for divine favor and eternal blessings. You're also made to see just how utterly dependent you are on God and His Word so that you enjoy His favor in Jesus and abide in Him forever. *“So that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold... – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* (1 Pet. 1:7)

Oh that all who heard Jesus in His day and ever since would've believed in Him and would believe in Him yet! But to all who were forever unwilling to believe Him, who are unwilling now and who will be, what other result should they expect but endless judgment? But as for you, O saints of God, you're the true spiritual heirs of Abraham! For if you are Christ's own dear ones – and you are! – *“then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the Promise.”* (Gal. 3:29) *Amen. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Holy Spirit and the communion of the saints, that God would raise us up from dry and weary despair to be strong in faith, bold in witness, holy in life and steadfast in hope, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all God's holy saints, that He Who showed His divine love for us at the cross as He provided there the Lamb for the burnt offering would have us look upon Christ in faith and be saved by His grace alone, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who hate and persecute us, that by His gracious visitation God would lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, to be of one accord, and to share one mind and heart with us and with His whole Church, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all godly parents, that they may direct their ways according to the Scriptures and commend their children to the care of our God and Father, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our president, governor and *for* all civil authorities, that our nation would be preserved in peace and all Christians be allowed to live quiet and peaceable lives in godliness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those in need, [*especially* _____,] that God would mercifully receive our prayers through the intercession of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest; and that He would answer our petitions on account of the merits and mediation of His Son, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who commune, that God would prepare our hearts and give us faith in Christ, our High Priest and Mediator; and that we would thus be worthy to eat His body and drink His blood, going in full confidence to the altar of God, our exceeding joy, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are children of Abraham by faith, especially _____, that they may be brought safely through all trials and gathered into God's heavenly Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, in Your Providence you chose Your servant St. Patrick to be a missionary to the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of You: Grant us so to walk in that way that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR [PAGES 24-31]

PROPER PREFACE (LORD'S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER)

P: It is truly, good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again, and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: ♪ 163, 159 & 145

POST-COMMUNION RESPONSORY FOR LENT

P: As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup:

C: Ye do show the Lord's death till He come. (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 140

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	40	--	12	\$5,034.38
St. James	50	--	8 10	\$2,285.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	14,890.00				
Actual	19,246.87		1,675.00		10
Last Week	5,034.38				

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	26,350.00			26,350.00	
Actual	19,143.25	15.00	50.00	19,208.25	10
Last Week	2,285.00			2,285.00	

+++++

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00AM: LWML Quilting (St. James)
- 3:30PM: Week Day School
- 7:00PM: Joint Lenten Vespers (at St. James)

THURSDAY

10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)

FRIDAY

*Pastor's Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*****We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Eldor Brade, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;*...at St. James...*Lois Turner, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], *Amber Brockenbush* [friend and relative of St. James members], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

+++*Easter Lilies*...we would appreciate your donation of an Easter lily (or more) for our upcoming Easter services! At Holy Trinity...please bring yours anytime following the Good Friday service. At St. James...orders will be taken...each lily will be \$15.75...please find the order form included in the bulletin and return with payment to either Peggy Raines or Sandra Lay by Good Friday, March 29. Thank you all for providing Easter lilies to grace our chancel area for our Easter service.

***Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesday. This year's theme will be based on Psalm 41, "**Be Gracious to Me**". We will be rotating back and forth beginning at 7pm.

+++St. James...we are asking for donations of coffee cake, donuts, etc. for our **Easter breakfast** following the sunrise service. Please drop off your donations at the parish hall on Saturday morning or before church on Easter. Also, if you are able to help set up for the breakfast, please meet at the parish hall at 9am on Saturday morning, March 30. Thank you for your HELP!!!

+++**THANKS** to everyone who contributed toward the annual Faith Lutheran High School raffle ticket fundraiser. We had a great response this year and brought in over \$25,000! Thank you for your support that made this possible!

***St. James...we have a variety of cards...check out our display of **Easter and Confirmation cards** on the table in the hallway by the offices...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

+++**THANK YOU:** St. James LWML would like to thank everyone for their support of our fundraisers over the past year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send money to the following organizations: Concordia Seminary Student Aid, Disciples of the Way, Epiphany Lutheran Church (Bastrop), Evergreen Lutheran School (inner city Detroit), Faith Lutheran High School, Lutheran Braille Workers, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutherans for Life, Orphan Grain Train, Post Oak GEMS, Backpack Buddies, City of Lexington, and Week Day School. Thank you for making it possible for us to contribute to so many organizations and ministries!

*****Lenten Devotionals** are available for pick up in the Narthex. Get yours today!

+++**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS & THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**...Our Sunday morning Bible Class study throughout the Season of Lent will be based on the theme of the previous Wednesday's Lenten service. We will resume our study on 1st Corinthians in Easter. Our Thursday morning Bible study is making its way through the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome to attend.

***Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's new book, "**Truth Notes**." This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!

+++**QUILTING UPDATE**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

*****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Verna Farrack, 19; Kenneth Patschke, 19;...St. James-Korban Brown, today; Mimzie Dennis, 19; Philip Hess, 19; Kinslee Hicks, 20; Jennifer Drosche, 22; Kayla Stanley, 23.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-John & Robyn Brockenbush, 18.