

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Open Door Policies:
One Stands; Everyone Else Sits
First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

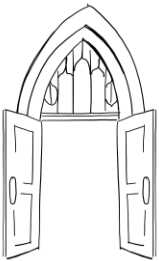


Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



Normally in a family everyone must do their part. . . pitch in. . . pull their weight. In God's family, he assigns and accepts the work of one on behalf of all. In God's house, God's Son—our brother, Jesus—stands alone on the field of battle against our enemies in our place. He fights vicariously. He fights victoriously.

This week we see one man, Jesus Christ, stand against Satan. We simply sit and watch with eyes full of wonder and repentant faith. Because Christ fought that battle as one of us, he won that battle for all of us. The door to heaven stands wide open for those who believe in him.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Marilyn Foley

Acknowledgements

The Service: Setting One from Christian Worship with Opening for Sundays in Lent (Year C). Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Service

Welcome

Hymn

538 *Jesus, My Great High Priest*
Pastor will sing st. 1. Join as you feel comfortable.

Stand

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

When God's children rebel and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

There is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

In the time of my favor I heard you,

and in the day of salvation I helped you.

2 Corinthians 5:21-6:2

Congregation sings:

916 *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857. Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Congregation sings:

916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857. Text and tune: Public domain

Lord, Have Mercy - Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Hymn

916 *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,
what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,
we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857. Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

1 Samuel 17:4–11,32–40,45–49

One warrior from each nation stood and fought while everyone else sat. David's victory over Goliath is as much a spiritual victory as a military one, for it teaches us that the battle is the Lord's.

⁴A challenger who represented the Philistines came out from the camp of the Philistines. He was named Goliath of Gath. He was nine feet, six inches tall. ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore scaled body armor, which was made of more than one hundred pounds of bronze. ⁶He had bronze greaves on his shins and a bronze spear slung between his shoulders. ⁷The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spearhead was made of fifteen pounds of iron. His shield bearer went out ahead of him.

⁸He would stand up and shout to the armies of Israel, "Why have you come out to line up in battle formation? I am a Philistine, and you are servants of Saul, aren't you? Choose a man to represent you, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, we will be your servants. But if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our servants, and you will serve us." ¹⁰The Philistine would say, "I defy the ranks of Israel today! Give me a man, and we will fight each other!" ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

³²David said to Saul, "Do not let anyone lose heart because of this Philistine! Your servant will go and fight him."

³³But Saul said to David, "You cannot go against this Philistine to fight with him, because you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior since he was a youth."

³⁴David said to Saul, "Your servant has been taking care of his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after it and struck it and rescued the lamb out of its mouth. When the lion reared up against me, I grabbed it by its mane, struck it, and killed it. ³⁶Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the ranks of the living God." ³⁷David added, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go then! May the LORD be with you." ³⁸So Saul dressed David in his own gear. He placed a bronze helmet on his head and dressed him in scaled body armor. ³⁹David strapped his sword over his gear. David tried to walk around in them, since he had never trained with this kind of equipment before.

David said to Saul, "I cannot go in these, because I have never trained with them." So David took them off.

⁴⁰Then David took his staff in his hand and picked five smooth stones out of the stream bed and put them into the pouch of his shepherd's bag. He took his sling in his hand and approached the Philistine.

⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you

down and cut off your head. Today I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷and all those gathered here will know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear, for the battle belongs to the LORD, and he will deliver you into our hand.”

⁴⁸Then, when the Philistine started advancing to attack David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹David put his hand into his bag, took a stone from it, shot it from his sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

91A The Shadow of the Almighty

With Jesus, our champion, standing and fighting in our place, we rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Refrain

He who dwells in the Most High will
rest in the shadow of th'Al-might-y.

Tone

Surely he will save you from the / fowler's snare
and from the deadly / pestilence.

He will cover you with his / feathers,
and under his wings you will find / refuge.

**You will not fear the ter- / ror of night,
nor the arrow that / flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the / darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at / midday. *Refrain***

If you say, “The LORD is my / refuge,”
and you make the Most High your / dwelling,
no harm will over- / take you,
no disaster will come / near your tent.

For he will command his angels con- / cerning you
to guard you in / all your ways;
they will lift you up / in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot a- / gainst a stone.

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*

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Second Reading

Hebrews 4:14–16

Jesus has stood in our place, facing every temptation that we have faced. Yet he did not sin.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. ¹⁶So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 3:8



Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



The reason the Son of God ap - peared was to destroy the dev - il's work.

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Gospel

Luke 4:1–13

Weak and in the wilderness, Jesus stands against Satan’s temptations. He overcomes them, winning the victory for us.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. He did not eat anything during those days. When they came to an end, he was hungry. ³The Devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

⁵The Devil led him up to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶The Devil told him, “I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, because it has been entrusted to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. ⁷So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹The Devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰because it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,

¹¹and they will lift you up with their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It says: ‘You shall not test the Lord your God.’”

¹³When the Devil had finished every temptation, he left him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

813 *He Will Hold Me Fast*

10:30 – School children will sing sts. 1 & 3. Please join in st. 2 and the final refrain.

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Father, after his baptism your Son faced the stern attacks of Satan who tried to derail his journey to the cross. On this day we rejoice in Jesus' victory in the wilderness and praise him for his ultimate triumph over the works of the devil.

Send us your Spirit that we may believe this truth and apply it in our lives.

Satan and his followers seek to overturn our faith and love every day. Their goal is to separate us from your presence and destroy our relationship with your Son. Give us wisdom to be alert for their attacks and recognize the danger they bring.

Protect us as we endure temptation. Keep us from becoming Satan's victims. Forgive us and restore us when we give in to him.

Make our faith stronger than it is now so that we might know more and more that Jesus matters most to us in life and death. Give us wisdom and power to follow him and do his will.

Keep us from thinking that sins are harmless and cannot lead us away from him.

According to your will, Lord, curb the influence of Satan in our world and society. Help people to grasp the appalling effects of his power and to refrain from doing wicked and harmful deeds.

Come to the aid of those who are the objects of devilish power.

Give us courage to warn those we love about the dangers of the devil's temptations. Lead us to speak the truth in love so that family members and friends may discern evil and step back from error and sin.

Move us to share the horror of Satan's power honestly and to offer your forgiveness in love.

Keep in your care all who are struggling with pain, battling with sickness, and facing death. Spare your people from Satan's temptations in their difficult hours and strengthen them with the promise of your Son's ultimate victory over sin, death, and the grave.

Help us to support them when we can and to keep them in our prayers.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Protect us, gracious God, from the power of Satan, the allure of the world, and the seduction of our sinful nature.

Cause us to believe that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

† For Destinee Fiecko who holds a call to serve in Doral , FL

† For Mary Harris who we called to serve as a teacher in the primary grades.

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Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



WELS Connection

Ministerial Education – Recruitment

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours 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.

Hymn

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

NEW BIBLE STUDY SERIES

— Apologetics —
DEFENDING THE FAITH

Video-based bible study featuring
Dr. Michael Berg
from Wisconsin Lutheran College

SUNDAYS ~ 9:15-10:15 AM
In the cafeteria

Take Home Questions

1 Samuel 17:4-11,32-40,45-49

1. We read selected verses from this account. Read through all of chapter 17. How did the full account add to your understanding of this well-known Bible story?
2. What gave David the confidence to take on Goliath's challenge (vv. 45-47)? Analyze David's words to Goliath.
3. From Scripture and from your own lives, give examples of how God achieves his victories in unlikely ways, just as he did here.

Hebrews 4:14-16

4. Read Leviticus 16:7-14 (or the entire chapter as time allows) to review what the Old Testament high priest did on the Day of Atonement. Where do you see pictures of Jesus in that special day?
5. Verse 15 says that Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. In what ways can Jesus sympathize with us?
6. Share some practical ways you "approach the throne of grace" in your prayer life. With what others have shared, how can you enhance your prayer life?

Luke 4:1-13

7. What was Satan's purpose in tempting Jesus to do the following? Use the Old Testament passages Jesus quotes to support your answers.
 - Use his divine power to feed himself
 - Become the world's leader by an easier route
 - Test the reliability of God's promises
8. What does verse 13 tell us about Satan's plan for Jesus? What about Satan's plan for us?
9. In what ways does this account reveal Jesus to be our champion, just as David was the champion for Israel in 1 Samuel 17?

News & Announcements

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Mar. 17-21

St. Paul's will be serving at the food pantry the week of March 17. Volunteers are needed to fill grocery orders. The hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday from noon to 3:45 pm and Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:45 pm. If you can help, please contact Kaytlyn Peardot (970-413-0883 or kaytlyn.peardot@gmail.com).

Youth Bowling

Mar. 22 | 1:00 pm

The Youth Group of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites teens (grades 6-12) to an afternoon of bowling on Saturday, March 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please let them know that you will be coming by contacting Laura Stickel of Good Shepherd at 715-697-8753.

Hygiene Drive Ends Next Sunday

Mar. 16

The community hygiene drive wraps up next Sunday, March 16. Please bring in your donations of hygiene items and cleaning products and place them in the bin by the Ministry Table.

Easter for Kids Coming in April

April 12

Help us share the good news about Jesus' victory over death at Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 12. This half-day, VBS-style event needs lots of volunteers especially on the morning of the event. Both leaders and lots of helpers are necessary. Areas include crafts, lesson, music, make-a-snack, games, registration, childcare, lunch, setup & takedown. See the sign-up sheets on the Ministry Table or look for the link on our website under the Serve tab.

Silent Auction & Soup Cook-Off at NLHS

April 27

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) will hold their Annual Together We Shine Silent Auction & Soup Cook-Off on Sunday, April 27, noon-3:00 pm. They are looking for event volunteers, donor solicitors, donations, soup chefs, bake sale items and more. Event sponsorships are also available with advertising benefits. Please contact Brenda Kruncos at 715-571-4420 or brenda@mistylane.org for more information. All proceeds raised will benefit NLHS.

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 14 & 15 Peter Pan at NLHS
- Mar. 16 Hygiene Drive Ends
- Mar. 16 Lent/Easter Concert at NLHS
- Mar. 17-21 Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry
- Mar. 22 Youth Bowling Outing with Good Shepherd



Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship/3K-K Singing
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
Monday	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
	6:30 PM	Sisters on a Mission
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers in the Welcome Center
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:00 PM	Lenten Service
	5:45 PM	Fellowship Meal (<i>Board of Elders serving Sloppy Joes</i>)
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 220

Amazing Grace Update

Thru Mar. 3: \$66,331 toward mortgage principal
 Goal: \$125,000 in 125 days (by May 31)

Next Sunday

Theme: Open Door Policies: No Detours Allowed
 Readings: Jeremiah 26:8-15; Philippians 3:17-4:1;
 Luke 13:31-35

COMING TO NORTHLAND
 LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

PETER PAN
 Drama production
 Friday, March 14 at 7:00 pm
 Saturday, March 15 at 3:00 pm

JESUS IS WORTHY
 Lent/Easter Concert
 Sunday, March 16 at 3:00 pm



www.stpaulswr.org

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