



Grace Lutheran Church

801 West 11th Street
Elgin, Texas 78621
512.281.3367
www.GraceElgin.org

Rev. Carl D. Roth, Pastor
Pastor.Roth@GraceElgin.org
Mrs. Rita Gruetzner, Secretary
Office@GraceElgin.org
Mrs. Tamara Esquivel, Organist

Laetare, The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020



THEY ALL ATE AND WERE SATISFIED

THEME OF LAETARE, THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT: The Lord Feeds His People

The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God's people “*shall not hunger or thirst*” (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.



If you need to reach Pastor Roth, call or text his mobile phone, 512.229.8899, or email Pastor.Roth@Gmail.com. If you need to reach Rita Gruetzner, call the church office, 512.281.3367, during her office hours, Monday through Thursday from 8-1, or email graceelginlcms@gmail.com.

Sign up online for individual/family Communion services in the Parish Hall [here](#) (for Sunday, March 22) or [here](#) (for Monday-Thursday of this week). You also may call, email, or text Pastor Roth to sign up for a time. He is available for home visits upon request.

Offerings: Even though we are not able to meet for regular services, the congregation continues to have ongoing expenses. There are several ways to continue giving tithes and offerings: an offering box will be available in the Parish Hall during individual/family Communion services; there is a secure mail slot on the outside of Pastor Roth's office; you can mail a check to the church office: 801 W. 11th St., Elgin, TX 78621.

DIVINE SERVICE

The Order of Morning Service, pg. 5, *The Lutheran Hymnal*

In the Name of Jesus

HYMN OF INVOCATION

Dear Christians, One and All

#387

**1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won;
Right dearly it hath cost Him.**

**3. My own good works availed me naught,
No merit they attaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left naught but death to be my share;
The pang of hell I suffered.**

**5. He spoke to His beloved Son:
'Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown,
And bring to man salvation;
From sin and sorrow set him free,
Slay bitter death for him that he
May live with Thee forever.**

**7. To me He spake: Hold fast to Me,
I am thy Rock and Castle;
Thy Ransom I Myself will be,
For thee I strive and wrestle;
For I am with thee, I am thine,
And evermore thou shalt be Mine:
The Foe shall not divide us.**

**9. Now to My Father I depart,
The Holy Spirit sending
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
My help to thee extending.
He shall in trouble comfort thee,
Teach thee to know and follow Me,
And in all truth shall guide thee.**

**2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay,
Death brooded darkly o'er me,
Sin was my torment night and day,
In sin my mother bore me;
Yea, deep and deeper still I fell,
Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.**

**4. But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure.**

**6. The Son obeyed His Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother,
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my Brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r He wore,
A servant's form, like mine, He bore,
To lead the devil captive.**

**8. The Foe shall shed My precious blood,
Me of My life bereaving.
All this I suffer for thy good;
Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the vict'ry win,
My innocence shall bear thy sin;
So art thou blest forever.**

**10. What I have done and taught, teach thou,
My ways forsake thou never;
So shall My kingdom flourish now
And God be praised forever.
Take heed lest men with base alloy
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
This counsel I bequeath thee.**

PREPARATION

INVOCATION (*pg. 5*)

Matthew 28:19

P. In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C. **Amen.** (♪)

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE (*pp. 5–6*)

Hebrews 10:22

P. Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124:8

C. **Who made heaven and earth.** (♪)

P. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

Psalm 32:5

C. **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.** (♪)

P. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C. **Amen.** (♪)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Ps. 122: 1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Is. 66:10a, 11a

P. Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!

For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

C. (♪) **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

P. Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast.

THE KYRIE (pg. 17, ♪)

Matthew 15:22; Luke 17:13

C. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis is traditionally omitted during the penitential season of Lent. In place of the Gloria, we will sing De Profundis (Psalm 130), #664.

DE PROFUNDIS (#664, ♪)

Psalm 130 (KJV)

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O | LORD.

Lord, hear my | voice:

**Let Thine ears be at- | tentive
to the voice of my suppli- | cations.**

If Thou, LORD, shouldest mark in- | iquities,

O Lord, who shall | stand?

**But there is forgiveness with | Thee,
That Thou mayest be | feared.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth | wait,

And in His word do I | hope.

**My soul waiteth for the Lord
more than they that watch for the | morning:**

I say, more than they that watch for the | morning.

Let Israel hope in the LORD: For with the LORD there is | mercy,

And with Him is plenteous re- | demption.

And He shall redeem | Israel

From all his in- | iquities.

Glory be to the Father and to the | Son

and to the Holy | Ghost;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall be,
world without end. A- | men.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY (pg. 19)

2 Timothy 4:22

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And with thy spirit.** (♪)

P. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. **Amen.** (♪)

COLLECT FOR LENT

- P. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C. **Amen.** (♪)

Please be seated.

THE CATECHISM LESSON

The Feeding of the Five Thousand reminds us that Jesus, the Bread of Life, provides daily bread as well as the bread of Holy Communion that is His Body, and the wine that is His Blood.

- P. What does the Fourth Petition, “Give us this day our daily bread,” mean?
- C. **God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**
- P. What is meant by daily bread?
- C. **Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.**
- P. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- C. **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:8-13

⁸ Thus says the LORD: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, ⁹ saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; ¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. ¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. ¹² Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.” ¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 132:8-18; antiphon: v. 13

- P. The LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place.
- C. **Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.**
- P. Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy.
- C. **For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.**
- P. The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
- C. **“If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.”**
- P. For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:
- C. **“This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.**
- P. “I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- C. **“Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.**
- P. “There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- C. **“His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine.”**
(♪) **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**
- P. The LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place.

SECOND READING

Acts 2:36–47

³⁶ [Peter said,] “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received [Peter’s] word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Hallelujah is traditionally omitted during the penitential season of Lent. In place of the Triple Hallelujah, an appointed Tract is read.

TRACT

Psalm 125:1-2, 5b

P. Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!

All may stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL (*pg. 21*)

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!** (♪)

John 6:1-15

¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" ¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P. Here endeth the Holy Gospel.

C. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ!** (♪)

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*pg. 12*)

C. **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life ☩ **everlasting. Amen.**

**1. Jesus, priceless Treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest Friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,
Naught I ask beside Thee.**

**2. In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash and thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.**

**3. Satan, I defy thee;
Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.**

**4. Hence, all earthly treasure!
Jesus is my Pleasure,
Jesus is my Choice.
Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.**

**5. Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.**

**6. Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest Pleasure,
Jesus, priceless Treasure!**

SERMON

Government Aid

John 6:1-15, 25-29

OFFERTORY (*pg. 12, ♪*)

Psalm 51:10-12

**C. Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**2. Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

**4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment-throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!**

THE COLLECT FOR THE WORD (*pg. 14*)

P. Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast 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.

C. **Amen.** (♪)

THE BENEDICTION (*pg. 14*)

P. The Lord bless thee...and ✠ give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C. **Amen, Amen, Amen.** (♪)

CLOSING HYMN

Fight the Good Fight

#447

**1. Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.**

**2. Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.**

**3. Cast care aside; upon thy Guide
Lean, and His mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its Life and Christ its Love.**

**4. Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is All in all to thee.**

To God alone be glory!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

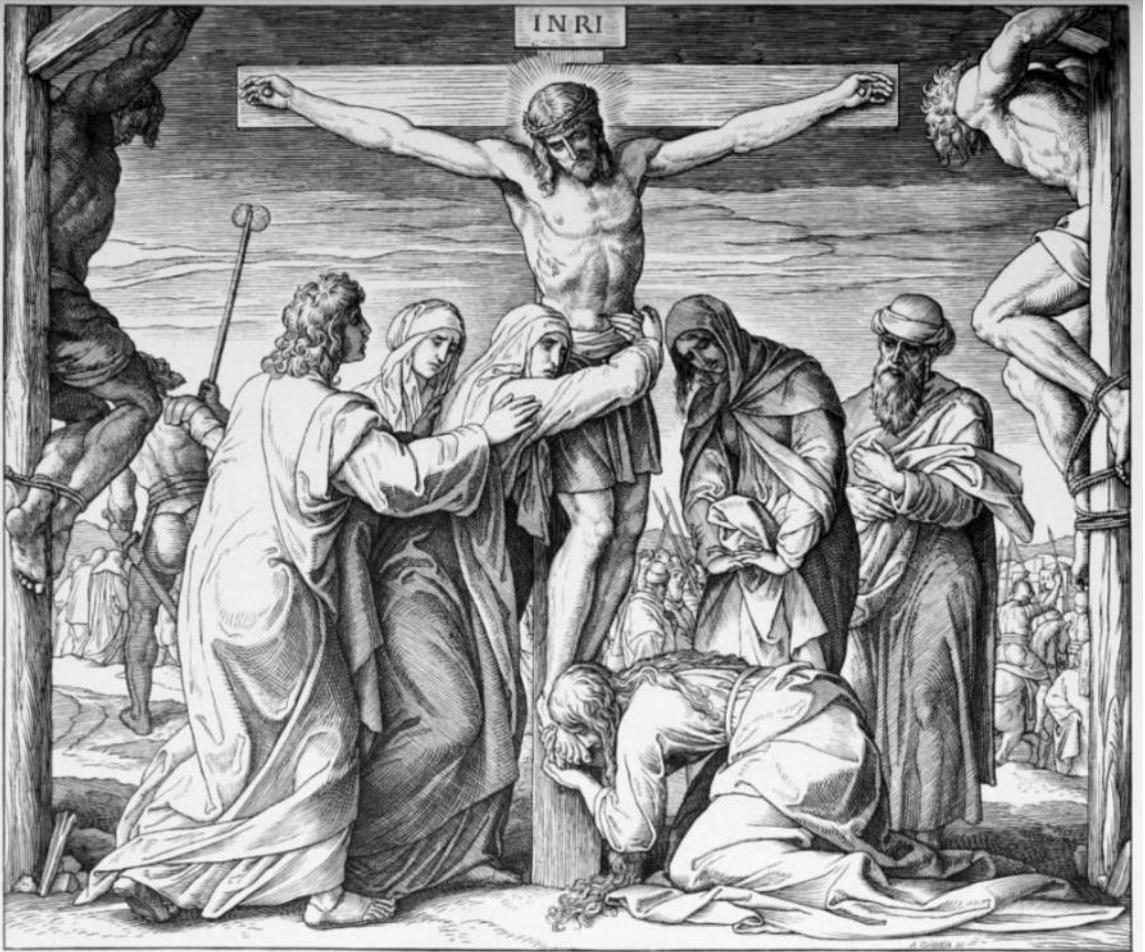
ADULT BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL are suspended until further notice. Pastor Roth will work on making some online resources available. Check your email for announcements. The church web site will be updated periodically as well, and Pastor Roth will send out announcements through Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/RothPastor>

CONSTANT CONTACT EMAILS: We just began using an email management system called Constant Contact. Several messages were sent out this past week. If you have not been receiving these emails in your Inbox, please check your “Spam” folder and mark messages from Rita or Pastor “Not Spam”.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE: “At home: can we be more loving and forgiving to those who mean so much to us? Can we take the time to show our unconditional love? At work: are we really a Christian example to our coworkers? Can we be more mindful of the struggles others are going through? At church: where sometimes, ironically, it’s the hardest, can we put on the mind of Christ, giving ourselves to our brothers and sisters in the faith? ... [L]et the message of God's love in Jesus resonate boldly in your own life ... to God’s glory.” *Dr. J. A. O. Preus – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

FROM LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY: John 6:5b – “Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?’ ” Of course, Jesus knows the answer to that question. Jesus knows how He means to care for His people. The Lord provided, and He is still providing. This knowledge frees us for generosity without fear.

Next Sunday, March 29: *Judica*, The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Scripture Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 54; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 8:42-59



OH, COME, LET US FIX OUR EYES ON
JESUS!