

† Lent III — “Watch!” †

“The Journey to the Cross”



“You Are the Branches”
John 15

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | March 7, 2021

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism.** ✠ Through your Son, whose example we follow, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and control.** ✠ Through your Spirit, who dwells among us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.** ✠ We pray that you will complete this work of Baptism within us, ✠ **as we daily surrender to you and listen to your every word.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

♪ Lord Jesus, think on me, amid struggle and strife. In all my pain and misery, please be my health and life. ♪ Lord Jesus, think on me, that when the flood is past, I may a new creation be, and walk with you steadfast. ♪ (tune LSB 610)

Surrendering to the Creator

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

We let go of control ✠ **and submit ourselves into your loving hands.** ✠ We leave behind our people-pleasing ✠ **and seek only your approval.** ✠ We walk away from our reliance on self, family, and nation ✠ **and trust you for everything we need.** *♪ Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now. ♪ (tune: LSB 783)*

Lent Litany

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, ✠ **blessed be the name of the Lord.**
Naked we came from the earth's womb ✠ **and naked we will return there.**
When a seed falls into the earth and dies, ✠ **then it produces much fruit.**
Those who try to hold on to their lives, ✠ **remain prisoners of death.**
But those who lose their lives for the Lord, ✠ **rise again to new life.**
The rich, arrogant, and powerful ✠ **are torn down from their thrones.**
But the poor, humble, and meek ✠ **inherit the whole earth.**

Song ✠ LSB 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

♪ When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. ♪

♪ *Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my Lord! All the empty things I love most, I give up all that I have stored. ♪*
 ♪ *See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? ♪*
 ♪ *Were the whole realm of creation mine, that would be a gift far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. ♪*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to remain with Jesus always, trusting that in him alone we have life. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(sit)

Listening to the Creator

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind. ♪* (tune: LSB 770)

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Eudocia the Samaritan

Father, we give you thanks for your Spirit-filled saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Eudocia who turned away from her life of wealth and sensual pleasures and gave her entire estate to the Christian community. She devoted her life to the faith and was beheaded around 115 AD. Help us learn from her faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 70*



♪ *O Lord, come quickly | to help me!*
 * *Let those who seek my life | be turned back.*
Let all who seek you, rejoice | and be glad.
 * *Let those who love you | praise your name.*
O Lord, I am afflicted | and needy.
 * *Be quick to help me, | O my God!*
You alone are my help and | my savior.
 * *O Lord, do not delay in | helping me! ♪*

Law & Prophets ✠ Jeremiah 21:8-14

The Prophets reading comes from Jeremiah 21. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**
 This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Epistle ✠ Philippians 1:27—2:11

The epistle reading comes from Philippians 1. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(stand)

† Holy Gospel † John 15:1-25

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *If you lose your life for my sake, you will find it; if you want to save your life, let it go. Take up your cross, deny yourself. Come, follow me, follow me.* ♪ (tune: GC2 688)

The holy Gospel comes from John 15. ✠ **Jesus, we listen, ready to follow you.**

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✠ **We will trust and obey.**

(sit)

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For serving the false gods of self, family, and nation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
✠ For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not living in restful harmony with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not listening to and caring for our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For trying to possess and control your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (tune: LSB 449)

Will you turn away from the Way of Civilization and reaffirm the Creator's claim upon you through your Baptism into the Way of Jesus? ✠ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✠
Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠
Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

(stand)

Song ✕ *LSB 691 “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”*

♪ *Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.* ♪

♪ *Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.* ♪

♪ *Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.* ♪

♪ *Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.* ♪

Waiting on the Creator

♪ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.* ♪ *Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen.* ♪ (tune: *LSB 637*)

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪

Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven. ✕ Father, heal your creation that we have harmed and destroyed by reuniting heaven and earth through Jesus and your Spirit. Bring your loving discipline, judgment, and peace upon us, all those in authority, and all creation. Open the hearts of all, so we may trust and obey the word of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Give us this day our daily bread. ✕ Father, be our provider and protector. Take care of us and heal our brokenness. Especially, we remember Charlene Sargent, Jack Wagner, Jan Zugelder, Jamey Story, Maggie Belcher, Jay Hastings, Abby & Jeff Hinman, COVID-19 victims, the Disciple Garden, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us. ✕ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our addictions to Civilization’s Way so we may walk in Jesus’s Way. Empower us to forgive the debts and sins of all who repent, even our enemies, in the same way you have forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ✕ Father, grow our trust in you and keep us from being tested when we are not yet ready. Free us from fear, self-indulgence, competition, ownership, and violence. Comfort us in the hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. ✕ Father, we thank you for all that you give—life, daily provision, and salvation from

death and slavery. Empower us to celebrate your love through a life of patient courage, self-discipline, humility, generosity, and kindness. Help us to let go of being in charge so we might entrust our lives fully into your hands, trusting that you work all things to the good of those who love you. ✠ **Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

We prepare to be united as one Body and communion at the Lord's table by sharing with each other the peace and love our Father has freely given to us.

(sit)

Offering

Everything belongs to our Father and is to be used to love each other in the same way Jesus has loved us. Therefore, we offer our entire lives as a living sacrifice to him while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

(stand)

Pledge of Allegiance

♫ We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us! ♫ (tune: LSB 816)

Lord Jesus, we pledge our obedience and every part of our lives to you...

I pledge allegiance to God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I pledge allegiance to Jesus the Christ, who is God's only Son and my Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He is coming to judge the living and the dead.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life with God, now and always. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Lift up your hearts! ✠ **We lift them to the Lord!** ✠ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ✠ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ✠ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ✠ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ✠ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♫ Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit

trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies! ♪ (tune: LSB 803)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. He said, “Follow my example. Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory.” ♪ ***When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 384)

Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus’s table, trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion. As we receive the Lord’s gifts, we commit ourselves to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the same Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us. We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth. ♪ ***Oh come, Lord Jesus, come and dine, and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov’r all the earth. Come now! Come now! Our Lord Jesus, and bring your healing love to us!*** ♪ (tune: LSB 357)

(sit)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

(stand)

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the bread of life ✕ ***your body, given for us.*** ✕ You judge us and heal us with your love and mercy ✕ ***your blood, shed for us.*** ✕ Now help us to do the same in your memory ✕ ***as we share our whole lives with the church and care for all your creation, including our own bodies.*** ✕ Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so we may always reflect your love. ✕ ***Amen.*** ♪ ***Go to dark Gethsemane, you who feel the tempter’s pow’r. Your Lord Jesus’ conflict see, watch with him one painful hour. Shun not suffering, shame or loss, learn from him to bear your cross. ♪ To his cross go make your climb, there to worship at his feet. It is here his kingdom’s time, his self-sacrifice complete. “God forgive them,” hear his cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 436)

Blessing

May the Father bless you and hold you in his hands. May the Son empower you to love all his creation in the way he has loved you. May the Holy Spirit fill your body and give you a peace that is free of all anxiety. ✠ **Amen.**

Song ✠ *LSB 878 “Abide With Me”*

♪ Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me. ♪

♪ I need your presence ev’ry passing hour. What but your grace can foil the tempter’s power? Who like yourself, my guide and strength can be? Through good and evil, Lord, abide with me. ♪

♪ Swift to its close now comes life’s little day. The world’s joys fade, its pleasures pass away. Death and decay in all around I see—oh Lord who never dies, abide with me. ♪

♪ I fear no foe with you at hand to bless. Though ills have weight and tears their bitterness. Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, your victory? I rise anew if you abide with me. ♪

♪ Hold now your cross before my closing eyes. Grow me through loss and help me to arise. New life breaks through as death is forced to flee. In life, in death, oh Lord, abide with me. ♪

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- “40 Days of Walking the Way” - Join us on Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 pm as we immerse ourselves in Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love.
- Table Talk - Join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm for our table talk discussions on “The Patient Ferment of the Early Church.” Kevin and Luke are leading us in a discussion about the character and practices of the early church and how we can shape our own direction and life as a church in similar ways.
- Holy Week Schedule
 - Maundy Thursday - Apr 1, 6:30 pm @ the Disciple Garden
 - Good Friday - Apr 2, 6:30 pm @ the Sanctuary
 - Holy Saturday - Apr 3, 6:00 pm @ the Disciple Garden
 - Easter Sunday - Apr 4, 9:30 am @ the Sanctuary

Weekly Calendar | March 7 - 14, 2021

Sun Mar 7	8:30-9:10 am	Individual Confession & Forgiveness
	9:30 am	The Divine Liturgy "You Are the Branches" John 15
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship
	11:15 am	Text of the Day Study
Mon Mar 8	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke's Office Hours
	6:00 pm	Table Talk: "The Patient Ferment of the Early Church"
Tues Mar 9	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke's Office Hours
Wed Mar 10	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke's Office Hours
	6:30 pm	"40 Days of Walking the Way": Way of Hope — Waiting
Thurs Mar 11		
Fri Mar 12		Pastor Luke's Sabbath
Sat Mar 13		
Sun Mar 14	8:30-9:10 am	Individual Confession & Forgiveness
	9:30 am	The Divine Liturgy "I Have Conquered the World" John 16
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship
	11:15 am	Text of the Day Study

Thought of the Week

"We should be obedient to God rather than those who have arrogantly made themselves leaders. We will bring great danger upon ourselves if we surrender ourselves to the purposes of men." (1 Clement)

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church — www.stlukeskck.org

722 Reynolds, Kansas City, KS, 66101

Luke Kammrath, Pastor — luke.kammrath@gmail.com (913) 303-0977

Kevin Dierks, Community Minister — kgdierks@gmail.com (913) 709-1349

Marie Sasnett, Financial Deacon — marie.stlukes@gmail.com

Marsha Oyer, Music — arbpe@sbcglobal.net