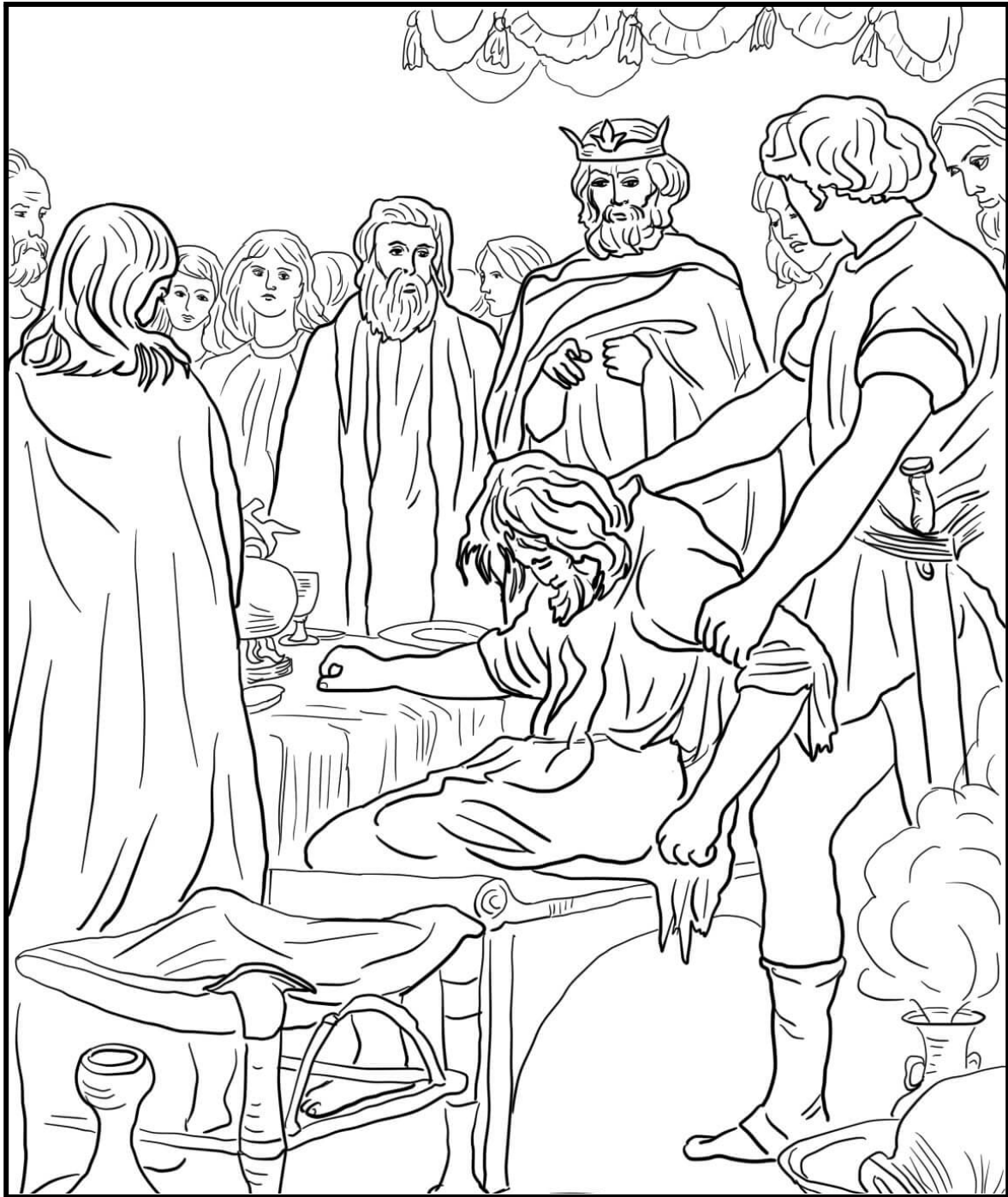


† **Lent IV — “Rejoice!”** †
“The Journey to the Cross”



“Many Are Invited, Few Are Chosen”
Matthew 22:1—23:39

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | March 19, 2023

Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Processional 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.* ♪

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.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator's Kingdom.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

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

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♪ *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 money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now.* ♪ (LSB 783)

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.”

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

♩ *O Christ, who called the twelve to rise and follow you, forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new: Grant us to hear your call to risk security and, bound in heart and will to you, find perfect liberty.* ♪ *O Christ, who led the twelve among the desolate and broke as bread of life for all your love compassionate: Lead us along the ways where hope has nearly died and help us climb the lonely hills where love is crucified.* ♪ (LSB 856)

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to accept your invitation into the new life of the Kingdom. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, “Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live.” ♪ *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.* ♪ (LSB 770)

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Maximilian of Tebessa

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Maximilian of Tebessa who was beheaded in 296 AD for refusing to serve in the Roman army because Jesus alone is Lord and then with his last act gave away his clothes to his executioner. Help us learn from his faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 18*



♩ *The cords of death were all | around me*
* *and the raging of the nations | made me scared.*
In my distress I called | to the Lord,
* *and cried to my | God for help.*
He came from on high | and took me,
* *he drew me out of | the waters.*
He brought me forth into | a safe place,
* *he rescued me, because | he loves me.* ♪

Law & Prophets ✠ Isaiah 17:7-13

The Prophets reading comes from Isaiah 17. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The Epistle reading comes from 1 Corinthians 12. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 22:1-14

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 Matthew 22. ✠ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**
If you have ears to hear, then listen! ✠ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✠ **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 peace with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting 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.*** ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ✠ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ✠ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” 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.** ✠ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ✠ **Amen.**

Song of the Day ✠ “**A King Planned a Party**” (tune: LSB 643)

♪ ***A king planned a party — a feast, rich and hearty. He sent invitations to all of his guests. So what could be better than getting a letter And being invited and welcomed and blessed? “My work needs attention,” said one, “Not to mention, My family is growing. There’s so much to do.” “My farm,” said another, “Is big, and—oh, brother—I’m busy with hobbies I want to pursue.”*** ♪

♫ *“The wedding is ready! My guests are not worthy!” The king told his servants when nobody came. So go search the alleys, the hills and the valleys, And bring in the poor and the blind and the lame.” That day there was singing and halls that were ringing With laughter and joy in that wonderful place. For those who attended knew how they depended Upon the king’s generous mercy and grace. ♪*

♫ *O God, you invite us! You seek to delight us. Your table is ready for those who say “Yes!” Do we make excuses when you want to choose us To sit at your table, forgiven and blessed? And, Lord, as you welcome us into your kingdom, May we reach to welcome the world by your grace. You love the outsider. Now may we reach wider To welcome the world with your loving embrace. ♪*

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. ♪ (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)

Jesus says, “Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father’s Kingdom and he will give you everything you need.” *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, Jan & Paul Zugelder, Carolyn Davis, Celise Sims, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our anxieties, traumas, and addictions to Civilization’s Way, so we may walk in Jesus’s Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that all your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are working all things to the good of those who love you. ✠ **Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on earth as in heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ☩ **before you come to the Lord's altar.**
By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ☩ **if you love each other.**”

Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Sell your possessions and give to the poor.” We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

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!* ☩ (LSB 816) Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before others, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.”

I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. 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!

☩ *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.* ☩ (LSB 610)

† 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. Jesus said, ☩ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, 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. ♫ (LSB 384)

Invitation to the Table

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” 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 to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the 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 between the Creator and his creation.

♫ 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! ♫ (LSB 357)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Christ Jesus, as we feed on you **✠ we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves **✠ but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, **✠ help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Jesus says, “Go and live this truth: **✠ The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!** ✠ Heal the sick, raise the dead, **✠ cleanse the unclean, and cast out evil spirits.** ✠ Freely you have received from the Lord, **✠ now freely you must give.** ✠ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, **✠ but do not fear, take up your cross and follow me.”**

♫ 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 suff’ring, 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. ♫ (LSB 436)

Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator’s Kingdom. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace.” ✠ **Amen.**

Recessional Song ✠ *“Lord, You Teach Us to Be Humble” (tune: LSB 827)*

♫ Lord, you teach us to be humble in the things we do and say, so that others will not stumble or, discouraged, turn away. For a faith that’s lived for glory, full of bragging, full of show, cannot tell the Gospel story that all people need to know. ♫
♫ How do other people greet us as we journey through our days? Do we hope that they will meet us with a word of thanks or praise? Do we seek congratulations for

the kind of life we lead? Do we want their admiration for the things that we believe? ♪

♪ May we never burden others under our selfish ego. Make us kind to one another; make us humble as we go. As we give up seats of honor, may we give you glory, too. Lord, you teach us to be humble; may we humbly follow you. ♪

- * Lent: “40 Days of Walking the Way,” Matthew 5—7
Wednesdays (Feb 22 - Mar 29) at 6 pm
- * Faith & Film: “**Soldiers of Conscience**” Mar 20 @ DG
- * Faith & Film: “**The Passion of the Christ**” Mar 27, Apr 3 @ DG
- * Faith & Film: “**The New World**” Apr 10, 17, 24 @ DG
- * Scripture Study: “The Shepherd of Hermas,” (resumes Apr 12)

Weekly Calendar | March 19 - 26, 2023

Sun, Mar 19	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Few Are Chosen” Matthew 22:1—23:39
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study
Mon, Mar 20	6:00 pm	Faith & Film: “Soldiers of Conscience” @ DG
Wed, Mar 22	4:30 pm	Jesus Time
	5:15 pm	Choir
	6:00 pm	“40 Days of Walking the Way”: Matthew 7:1-12
Sat, Mar 25	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Mar 26	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Be Ready!” Matthew 24:1-51
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study

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