

AN CHURCHMAN

Der kleine

Catechismus

Für die gemeine

Pfarrer und
Prediger.

S. Mart. Luther

in Leipzig.

Welcome to worship at . . .

First Lutheran Church

Rev. William P. Schultz, Visiting Pastor

Curtis L. King, Organ

Lenten Mid-Week Worship

April 2, 2025

Announcements, and Prelude

Call To Worship

L *The Lord is near you;*

C **On your lips and in your heart.**

L *If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,*

C **And believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

L *Faith comes from what is heard,*

C **And what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

Opening Hymn

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

443

The Prayer of the Day

The Passion Reading Matthew 27:1-

10

Go to insert

Homily

Baptism: Gift and Struggle

(A Brief Silence follows)



A Special Liturgy on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

℣ *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

☩ **Amen.**

℣ *In baptism we are integrated into the people of God.*

☩ **God claims us as redeemed daughters and sons.**

℣ What is baptism?

☩ **Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's Word and by his command.**

℣ What is this Word?

☩ **In Matthew 28 our Lord Jesus Christ says: "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**

℣ You have made us for yourself, O Lord.

☩ **And our hearts are restless till they rest in you.**

℣ What benefits does God give us in baptism?

☩ **In baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe what he has promised.**

℣ What is God's promise?

- ☑ In Mark 16 our lord Jesus Christ says: "Those who believe and are baptized will be saved; and those who do not believe will be condemned."**
- 📖 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity**
- ☑ And cleanse me from my sin.**
- 📖 How can water do such great things?**
- ☑ It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in that Word.**
- 📖 Water by itself is only water.**
- ☑ But with the Word of God it is a life-giving water, which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.**
- 📖 Paul writes in Titus 3: "He saved us... in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit,**
- ☑ Which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior,**
- 📖 So that we might be justified by his grace**
- ☑ And become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."**
- 📖 If Christ has made you free,**
- ☑ You are free indeed.**
- 📖 What does baptism mean for daily living?**
- ☑ It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance.**
- 📖 And that day after day a new self should arise**
- ☑ To live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**
- 📖 There is therefore now no condemnation unto those who are in Christ Jesus,**
- ☑ Who do not walk after the flesh but in the Spirit.**
- 📖 Saint Paul writes in Romans 6: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,**
- ☑ So that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."**
- 📖 Don't you know that you are the temple of God.**
- ☑ And the Spirit of Christ dwells in you?**
- 📖 But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us.**
- ☑ Thanks be to God.**

The Lesson Romans 6:1-11

Theme Hymn

**A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

Luther's Morning Prayer

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.

Theme Hymn

With water and God's holy Word,
By Father, Son, and Spirit;
A new child's born when this is heard,
The gift of faith receives it.
For God we cannot do;
He does for me, for you.
Forgiv'n and reconciled,
On us his grace has smiled.
With Christ, God claims his children!

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Offerings & Organ Offering

(The Offerings are received and brought forward)

Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Departing Hymn

"Baptized in Water"

The Purpose of Baptism

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Martin Luther's "Flood" Prayer

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciple of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.