

Isaiah 58:6
“Is this not the fast that I have chosen:
To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens,
To let the oppressed go free,
And that you break every yoke?”



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As We Gather

It is a temptation common to our sinful nature to view our religion as a transaction: we offer our outward piety, and God owes us His blessing. The Israelites in Isaiah's day fell into this trap, fasting strictly while neglecting mercy and justice. They wondered why the Lord did not see their sacrifice. Today, the Prophet Isaiah confronts the emptiness of ritual without repentance. He directs us away from a religion of self-made works to the heart of God's will. What does the Lord actually require? As we gather today, we are invited to look past the external forms of worship to find the fast that God truly desires—one that breaks the yoke of sin and restores the soul.

† Preparation for Worship †

Hymn

425 (1, 3-4, 6) – All Depends On Our Possessing

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 43:3; 51:6; 36:9; 4:5

P Send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me;
C **Let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.**
P Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
C **And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.**
P For with You is the fountain of life;
C **In Your light we see light.**
P Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
C **And put your trust in the Lord.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, Scripture teaches that God looks at the heart rather than outward appearances. While gathering for worship is good, the Lord warns against honoring Him with our lips when our hearts are far away. He desires mercy, not just sacrifice, and a righteousness exceeding that of the scribes and Pharisees. Therefore, let us examine our motives and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring His grace for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C O Almighty God, Merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have sought outward righteousness while harboring pride within. We have failed to feed the hungry or shelter the poor, hiding the light You gave and losing the savor of our salt. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive, renew, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. It is not by our works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy that He saved us. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

† The Service of the Word †

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

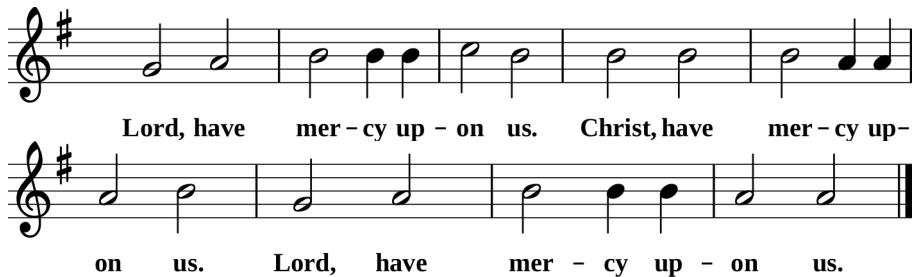


Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-ermore. A - men.



Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)



All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶ For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 112:1-9

- P** Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
- C** **Who delights greatly in His commandments.**
- P** His descendants will be mighty on earth;
- C** **The generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- P** Wealth and riches will be in his house,
- C** **And his righteousness endures forever.**
- P** Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
- C** **He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.**
- P** A good man deals graciously and lends;
- C** **He will guide his affairs with discretion.**

- ¶ Surely he will never be shaken;
- ¶ The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.
- ¶ He will not be afraid of evil tidings;
- ¶ His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ¶ His heart is established; He will not be afraid,
- ¶ Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.
- ¶ He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor;
- ¶ His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

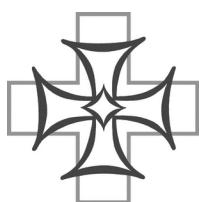
¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!



Confession of Faith

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.

Hymn

323 – With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

Sermon Text

Isaiah 58:3-9a

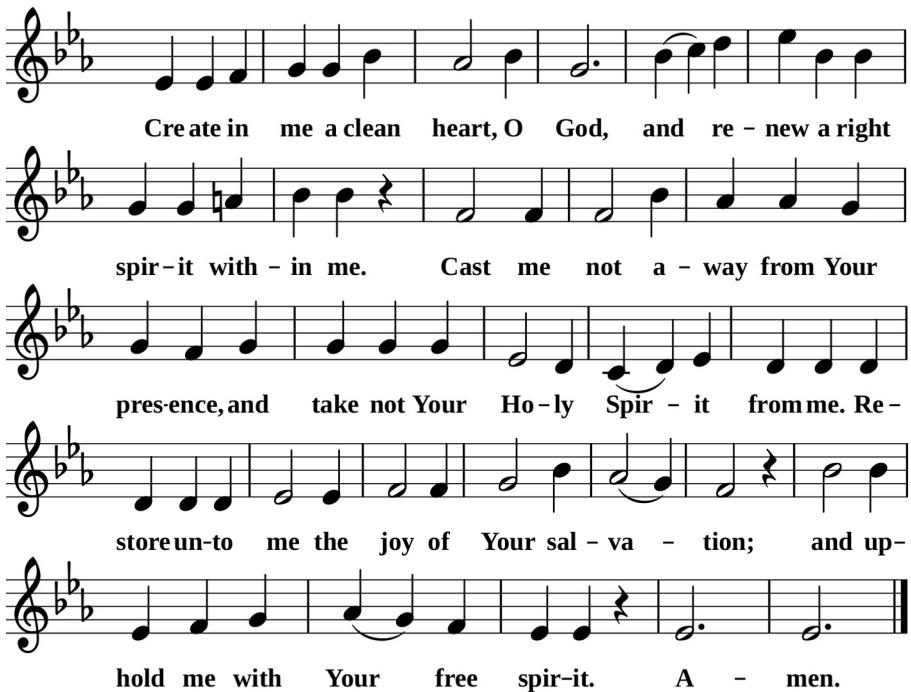
³ “‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. ⁴ Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? ⁶ “Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’”



The Fast that God Requires

- I. The False Fast of the Sinner
- II. The True Fast of the Savior
- III. The New Fast of the Saint

Offertory



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Your
presence, and take not Your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-
store un-to me the joy of Your sal-va-tion; and up-
hold me with Your free spir-it. A-men.

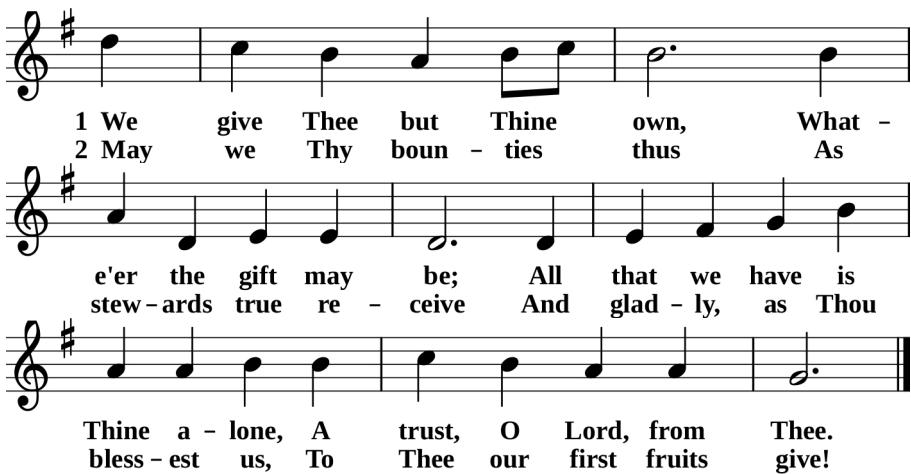
Hymn

428 – I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun-ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew-ards true re-ceive And glad-ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn 399 (1, 3, 5-6) – Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

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☩ Announcements ☩

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

February 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
February 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
February 18	2:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
February 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **March 1** – Trustees/Church Council
- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **May 3** – Education/Elders

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Pastor Away: Pastor Sauers will be away from Thursday through Sunday to serve at the Southeastern Women's Retreat in Sherrills Ford, NC. In his absence, Pastor Dennis Rieken will lead Bible class and the worship service next Sunday. Pastor Sauers remains reachable by phone for emergencies.

Midweek Lenten Series: Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus: Our midweek Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18. This year, our meditation will follow the theme "Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus." We will explore how the Old Testament account of Israel's rescue from Egypt foreshadows our own rescue from sin and death. Just as God heard the cries of His people in bondage, He hears us and answers us in Christ Jesus.

Please join us for these opportunities to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Savior's passion. All services are at 2:00 PM.

Service Schedule:

- **Feb 18 (Ash Wednesday):** The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries (Exodus 2:23-25)
- **Feb 25:** The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us (Exodus 3:1-15)
- **Mar 4:** The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer (Exodus 4:1-20)
- **Mar 11:** The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy (Exodus 12:1-14)
- **Mar 18:** The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)
- **Mar 25:** The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

CLC News: Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD, has received and returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Paul Agenten of Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Iron River, MI, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has returned the call to Trinity Ev.

Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has received the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Ev. Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has returned the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of April 30, 2026. <> Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of summer 2026.

✚ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✚

February 9 – February 14, 2026

Monday - *Matthew 13:3-23*

Even where heaven's King rules, the harvest is not always the same. The seed and Sower are the same, but still have opposition in many different forms, pictured by weeds, rocks, birds, etc.

Tuesday - *Matthew 13:24-30*

Why does not heaven's King simply wipe out the weeds sown by His enemy? Because He cares so much for the wheat which He has planted. But the day of harvest is coming.

Wednesday - *Colossians 3:12-17*

May all the love of our glorious Savior be reflected in our compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love toward one another, whether in word or deed.

Thursday - *Jeremiah 17:5-10*

Evil proceeds from misplaced trust, such as trusting in human strength. Following such a heart leads to disaster, but blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD.

Friday - *Psalm 86*

"Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3). In this Psalm we have the chance to pray with David, who was poor and needy. With him we look to the LORD who is good and forgiving, full of mercy.

Saturday - *Psalm 20*

As we worshiped the LORD in the day of peace and plenty, may we also look to Him in the day of distress. Some rely on earthly strength, but we will rely on the name of the LORD, our God (verse 7).