



## BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Consequently the true worship of God is to kiss this Son, that is, to adore Him in such a way that you see nothing in heaven and earth aside from Him and believe in nothing else than Him.” Martin Luther, *LW* 12:87

Dear Saints,

*Third Sunday in Lent* 7 Mar. 2021

Oculi—The Third Sunday in Lent. The name comes from the first word in Latin of the introit of the day (taken from Psalm 25): *Oculi mei semper ad Dominum* – “My eyes are always on God.” The season of Lent trains us to keep our eyes on the One who brings help. Oculi Sunday is a strong reminder that our faith is not merely an auditory one, but also a faith bound up with visual confirmation. It was the eyewitnesses of the life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God that lends great credibility to the truth about Jesus. Yes, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ, but it was that Christ who was Immanuel—God with us—who is so compelling.

I’ll be preaching from Jeremiah this Sunday, so take note of the connections with Jesus our Lord. The Prophet Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the Word of the Lord. So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (St. [Luke 11.14–28](#)). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard ([Exodus 8.16–24](#)). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus.

Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil’s armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord ([Ephesians 5.1–9](#)). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us. And so it is with the Lord, He only wrestles with the children whom he loves. For He Himself lets Himself be pinned to a cross, that your prayers would never be ignored.

**Oculi.** 7 Mar. Color: Purple. Procession: 814; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day: 577; Psalm 4 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn, 629; Post-Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional: 700. Sermon: Jer 26.1-15 “Not Gonna Like This.”

**Third Mid-week in Lent:** Wednesday @ 5:30 pm, 3 March. Setting: Evening Prayer *LSB* 243, chanted (unaccompanied). Holy Communion, Divine Service setting IV. Closing hymn: 659. Sermon: St. Mark 12.1-12, “The Wicked Tenants.”

**Laetare.** 14 Mar. Color: Purple. Processional 796; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day 504; Psalm 132 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn: 611; Post-Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional 655. Sermon: Gal. 4.21-31, "A New Standard"

Mar. 7	Third S. in Lent (Oculi)	Ex. 8:16–24 or Jer. 26:1–15	Psalm 136:1–16 or Psalm 4	Eph. 5:1–9	Luke 11:14–28
Mar. 14	Fourth S. in Lent (Laetare)	Ex. 16:2–21 or Is. 49:8–13	Psalm 132:8–18	Gal. 4:21–31 or Acts 2:41–47	John 6:1–15

**Resource:** Pastor was on Issues, Etc. talking about how the truth of Christ dispels superstition and scientism @ <https://issuesetc.org/?s=bombaro+superstition>. Later this week he will be speaking on "Why God Works through Words."

\* The best Christian podcast, Issues Etc., posts new segments each day, along with the daily radio Bible study: The Word of the Lord Endures Forever, with LCMS pastor Will Weedon.

Pastor is speaking for a three-day virtual conference in Romanian on "The Lost Art of Lutheranism" (12-14 March at 10:30am). If you would like to attend for free, simply request the link from Pastor.

Happy Birthday Wolfgang (now 9!) and Luca (turning 12 on Tuesday).

**Catechesis.** Sunday catechesis for all from 1400 - 1445. "Final Thoughts on the Liturgy." Next Sunday: We begin a new 16-part series, "Where Heaven and Earth Meet."

#### UPCOMING:

- (1) *Kyle and Aly* to receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday 14 March.
- (2) Mid-week Lenten Mass 5:30pm throughout Lententide.
- (3) Conformation Catechesis 4:30pm Wednesday throughout Lent.
- (4) Pastor w/USMC 18-21 March. It is a "radio city" field exercise which means no communications. A service of the Word will be lead by Nathan and David.
- (5) First acolyte training session: On a Friday night in March TBD
- (6) Our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, will be visiting Blessed Sacrament in April. He will preach while Pastor Bombaro serves as the Celebrant.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor John