Oculi: Lent III
23 March A+D 2025

"Oculi" is from the Latin language. In English it means "eyes."
These are the beginning words of the Introit in Latin this week.
During the season of Lent we omit the "Gloria in Excelsis" and Alleluias.

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church U. A. C.
& Rainbow Preschool
145 S. 6th Street
Waterford, Wisconsin

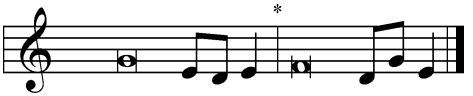
We are a member congregation of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

Prelude:

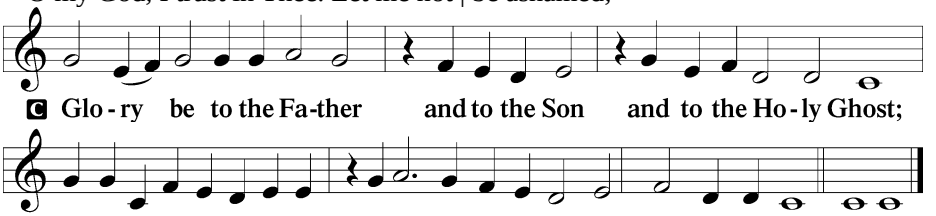
Hymn of Invocation: 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

Order of Worship: p. 184

Introit *Psalm 25:1–2a; antiphon: vv. 15–16*



Mine eyes are ever | toward the LORD:*
for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn Thee unto me and have mercy up- | on me,*
for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
Unto Thee, | O LORD, do I lift | up my soul:*
O my God, I trust in Thee. Let me not | be ashamed;*



Mine eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn Thee unto me and have mercy up- | on me,*
for I am desolate and af- | flicted.

Kyrie *p. 186*

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent

Salutation *p. 189*

Collect of the Day

℗ We beseech Thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Thy humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Thy majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Sit

Prophecy *Exodus 8:16-24*

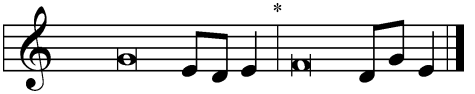
In those days: The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.' " And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said. And the LORD said

to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be." ' " And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 9:19, 3



Arise, O LORD, let not | man prevail;*
let the heathen be judged | in Thy sight.
When mine enemies are | turned back,*
they shall fall and perish at Thy | presence.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1-9

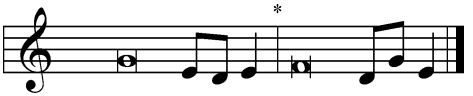
Brethren: Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Tract

Psalm 123:1–3a



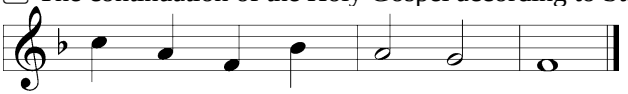
Unto Thee I lift | up mine eyes,*
O Thou that dwellest in the | heavens.
Behold, as the eyes of | servants*

look unto the hand of their | masters,
And as the eyes of a | maiden*
Unto the hand of her | mistress.
So our eyes wait upon the | LORD our God:*
until He has mercy up- | on us.
Have mercy up- | on us:*
O LORD, have mercy up- | on us.

Holy Gospel

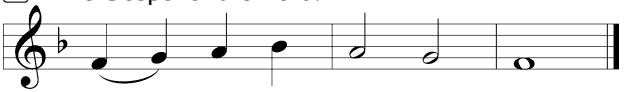
Luke 11:14–28

P The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.



At that time: Jesus was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 659 Lord of Our Life

Sermon

Offering Voluntary:

Stand

Offertory *p. 192 ff*
Prayer of the Church P Lord, in Your mercy; C **hear our prayer.**
Proper Preface
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:
Sanctus - Agnus Dei *p. 195 ff*

Distribution Hymns:
666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe /
645 Built on the Rock /
594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It /
429 We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died /
634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord /
431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

Stand
Nunc Dimittis - Benediction *p. 199 ff*
Hymn to Depart: 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image
Postlude:

Looking forward to Lenten Midweek Vespers III
Lessons: Psalm 4, Exodus 20:12-24a, Matthew 15:1-20
Hymns: 420-581-423

Looking Forward to next Sunday (Laetare)
Lessons: Exodus 16:2-21, Galatians 4:22—5:1a, John 6:1-15
Hymns: 592-743-TLH 520(printed)/642/737/434/632-422

Acknowledgments
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We Welcome Our Guests Today!

We're glad you've joined us in worship today. Please fill out a Visitor Card (located in the pew rack) and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate. We also ask that you read *"Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion"* printed below. Please visit our ***Welcome Center*** in the narthex and worship with us again soon.

Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion

In keeping with the tradition of the early Church and the Lutheran Confessions, we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. Because Holy Communion is an expression of complete unity of faith and doctrine, only members of St. Peter or a sister Missouri Synod congregation may commune. This is not a judgment of the faith of others, but rather an indication of our obedience to the Lord's command that those who kneel together at His altar be in complete unity regarding what they believe and teach. Your respect for our practice concerning the Lord's Supper is appreciated. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions.

If communing with individual cup, please hold your empty cup until Pastor has passed you with the chalice. And please remember to fill out a Communion card.

The Gathering of the Offerings

God finances His church. The gathering of the offerings is, therefore, not merely collecting money. It is a holy privilege for those who believe in Jesus Christ. This is our opportunity to gratefully respond to God's love and grace by returning a portion of the gifts He has given us. As God's children, we consider it a special honor to build and extend His kingdom through our offerings. St. Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7b NKJV). Our visitors and guests are in no way compelled to contribute to this offering. We ask nothing of our guests except that they return here often to hear more about God's great love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. If anyone wishes to give electronically, you may scan this QR code to set up an account.

Small Children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus wants your little ones present with Him during our worship service. And so do we.

When you're little, it's hard to sit without fidgeting or making some noise. And of course babies join us with their songs, too! We consider their small voices to be a part of our sacred music as they learn with us what it is to be a Christian. We encourage their presence throughout the entire service.

If you feel that your children are being too disruptive, please feel free to take them to the nursery that is located on the other side of the Conference Room. A closed-circuit television will bring the service to you. An usher will be happy to direct you.

"*Repetitio est mater studiorum*: Repetition is the mother of all learning." The more they're here, the easier it will get.

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