

The image features a golden-yellow background with a central text box. The text box is a lighter shade of yellow and contains the following text in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the text box, the bottom portion of the image shows a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a hazy, golden sky.

**The LORD said to  
Satan,  
“ The LORD  
rebuke you,  
Satan!”**

**Zechariah 3:2a**



## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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Lenten Midweek Worship

March 19, 2025

### Invocation and Verse

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.
- C** **And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.** (*Hebrews 2:14-15*)

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### *O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe*

*LSB 666 (tune 698)*

- 1** O little flock, fear not the foe  
Who madly seeks your overthrow;  
Dread not his rage and pow’r.  
And though your courage sometimes faints,  
His seeming triumph o’er God’s saints  
Lasts but a little hour.
- 2** Be of good cheer; your cause belongs  
To him who can avenge your wrongs;  
Leave it to him, our Lord.  
Though hidden yet from mortal eyes,  
His Gideon shall for you arise,  
Uphold you and his Word.

- 3 As true as God's own Word is true,  
Not earth nor hell's satanic crew  
Against us shall prevail.  
Their might? A joke, a mere facade!  
God is with us and we with God—  
Our vict'ry cannot fail.
- 4 Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer;  
Great Captain, now thine arm make bare,  
Fight for us once again!  
So shall thy saints and martyrs raise  
A mighty chorus to thy praise  
Forevermore. Amen.

### Opening Versicles

- P** God of all mercy and consolation,  
**C** Come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- C** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.
- P** The people confess:  
**C** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and

**bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**C** Amen.

## Epistle Reading

*Zechariah 3:1-10*

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. <sup>4</sup> The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.”

Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

<sup>6</sup> The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua: <sup>7</sup> “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

<sup>8</sup> “‘Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. <sup>9</sup> See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

<sup>10</sup> “‘In that day each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine”

**L** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.

**C** **And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (*Hebrews 2:14-15*)**

## Prayer of Martin Luther

**P** Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

**C** My lord, fill it.

**P** I am weak in faith;

**C** Strengthen me.

**P** I am cold in love;

**C** Warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.

**P** I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

**C** O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

**P** In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor;

**C** You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

**P** I am a sinner;

**C** You are upright.

**P** With me, there is an abundance of sin;

**C** In you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.

## Holy Gospel

*John 16:5b-11, 33*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**P** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.

**C** And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (*Hebrews 2:14-15*)

## ***Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken***

*LSB 521 v 1,3,4,5 (tune 793)*

- 1 Christ, the Lord of hosts, unshaken  
By the devil's seething rage,  
Thwarts the plan of Satan's minions;  
Wins the strife from age to age;  
Conquers sin and death forever;  
Slams them in their steely cage.**
  
- 3 Long on earth the battle rages,  
Since the serpent's first deceit;  
Twisted God's command to Adam,  
Made forbidden fruit look sweet.  
Then the curse of God was spoken:  
"You'll lie crushed beneath his feet!"**
  
- 4 Jesus came, this word fulfilling,  
Trampled Satan, death defied;  
Bore the brunt of our temptation,  
On the wretched tree he died.  
Yet to life was raised victorious;  
By his life our life supplied.**
  
- 5 Swift as lightning falls the tyrant  
From his heav'nly perch on high,  
As the word of Jesus' vict'ry  
Floods the earth and fills the sky.  
Wounded by a wound eternal  
Now his judgment has drawn nigh!**

## **Homily**

## **Creed**

- ☐** We 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. What does this mean?

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## Invitation to Prayer

- P** We do not know how to pray as we ought, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*) Our prayers easily become routine and meaningless.
- C** We worry and doubt.
- P** We wonder if God really listens.
- C** We trust our own sincerity.
- P** We try to impress God with our dedication.
- C** We cannot pray as we should.
- P** But God has said that we may pray, God has commanded us to pray, God has taught us to pray, and God himself prays for us. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*)
- C** So we pray confidently, certain that our loving Father hears us and promises to dwell with us. We pray the words our Lord Jesus taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

### Evening Prayer

**C** I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

# Holy Gospel

Mark 3:22-27

**L** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the third chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.” <sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house.

**L** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.

**G** **And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14-15)**

## *Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

*LSB 919 (tune 660)*

- 1 **Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
Among us with your grace  
That Satan may not harm us  
Nor we to sin give place.  
Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
Among us with your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter  
True peace and joy afford.**
- 2 **Abide with heav’nly brightness  
Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us  
From error’s gloomy night.  
Abide with richest blessings  
Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom  
Grow daily through your Word.**
- 3 **Abide with your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.**

## **Verse**

- P** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.
- C** **And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.** (*Hebrews 2:14-15*)

## **Benediction**







**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

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**Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,  
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.**

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