

Oculi Sunday
The Third Sunday in Lent
Jesus casts out demons
A Divided House Cannot Stand

March 3rd, Year of our Lord 2024

The Reverend William Foy, Pastor

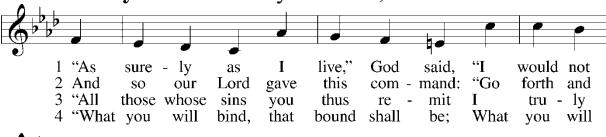
About the cover art: You see man bound by death and the grave. The demonic spirits with their weapons are trying to scare off the Stronger Man who has come to steal away the devil's treasures: man, body and soul destined for hell. Jesus comes, and they are lifted up even as they are looking up onto their freedom from bondage. The graves are opened; the demons are being scattered, and their bonds are being loosed— all by Jesus at His Word. Notice the creatures that the demons ride: pigs, and remember when the Lord freed the man called Legion of his demon possession and cast the demons into the pigs, who then went over the cliff and were drowned in the abyss of the sea.

<u>Order of Worship – Divine Service - Setting 3</u>

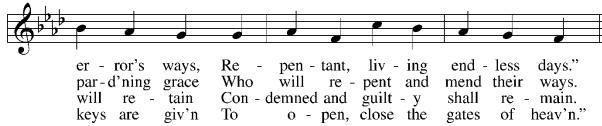
Preludes-

Time for silent prayer and preparation for confession Please rise and face the procession turning to the altar when the celebrant has passed by.

Procession Hymn- "As Surely as I Live," God Said







7

- The words which absolution give Are His who died that we might live; The minister whom Christ has sent Is but His humble instrument.
- When ministers lay on their hands, Absolved by Christ the sinner stands; He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives.

- All praise to You, O Christ, shall be For absolution full and free, In which You show Your richest grace; From false indulgence guard our race.
- 8 Praise God the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One, As was, is now, and so shall be World without end, eternally!

614

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Please Kneel/Stand

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Please Rise

Service of the Word

Introit: (Congregation chants the bold stanzas)



My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,* for He will pluck my feet out | of the net. Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,* for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

- P To You, | O LORD,*
 I lift | up my soul.
- C O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*

let not my enemies exult | over me.
The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

P Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.
Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in You.

(Gloria Patri Omitted during Lent)

P My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for He will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Kyrie
Gloria in Excelsis omitted until Easter
Salutation
186
189

Collect of the Day – *Prayed by Pastor*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Old Testament:

Jeremiah 26:1-15

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: "Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. You shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My law that I have set before you, and to listen to the words of My servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.""

The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that He has pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only

know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

Gradual- Chanted by the cantor

Ps. 9:19, 3

Arise, O LORD! Let not | man prevail;*
let the nations be judged be- | fore You!
When my enemies | turn back,*
they stumble and perish before Your | presence.

The Epistle: Ephesians 5:1–9

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no 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 associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of Light (for the fruit of Light is found in all that is good and right and true),

Please rise and face the procession as the Word of God enters into your midst. (Chanted by the congregation.)



To You I lift | up my eyes,*

O You who are enthroned in the | heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | master,* so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy up- | on us.

Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,* have mercy up- | on us.

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 11:14-28

Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," while others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven.

But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when One stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, He takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters. When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

As He said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts at which You nursed!"

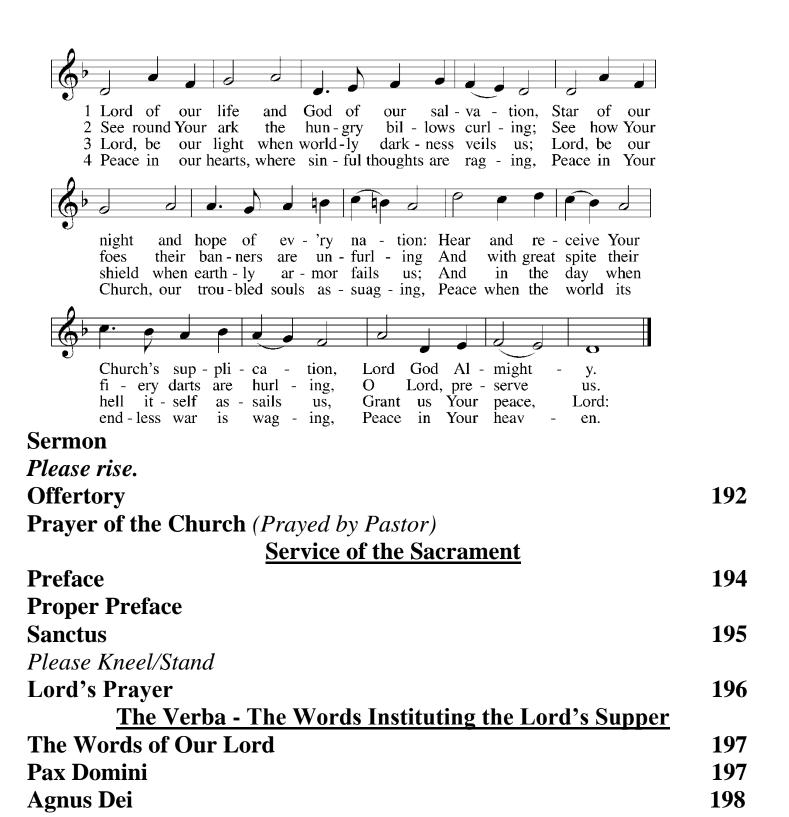
But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!"

Nicene Creed
Please be seated.

191

Hymn of the Day- Lord of our Life

659

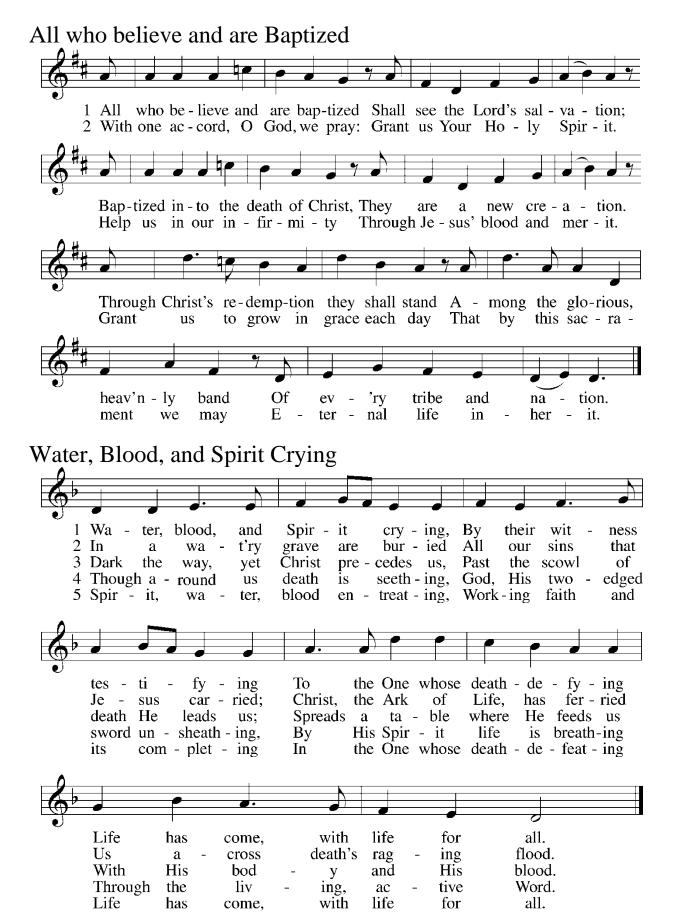


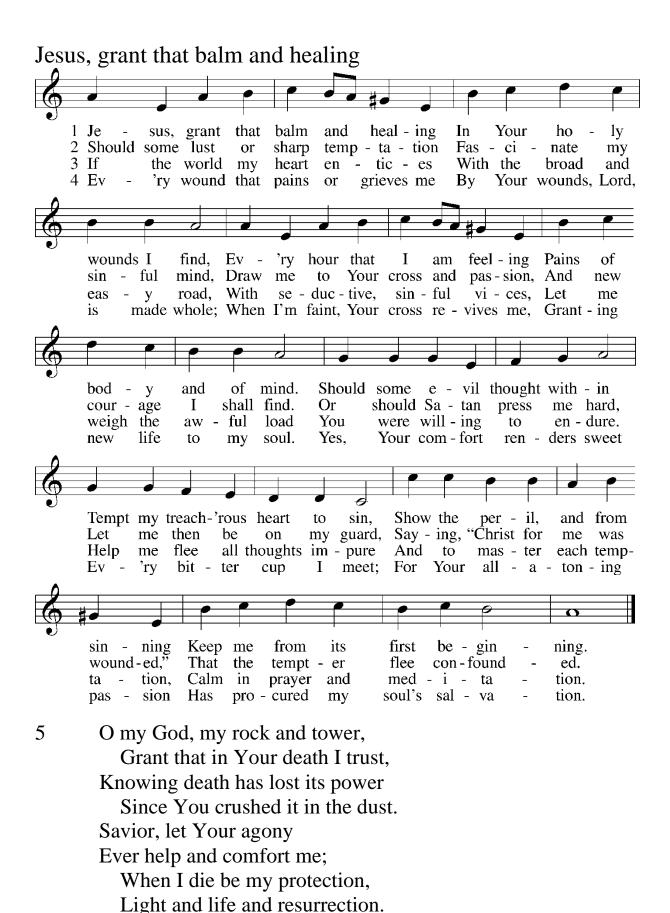
What we believe: The Sacrament of the Altar

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently communicant members in good standing of Prince of Peace. If you have never received Holy Communion at Prince of Peace from Pastor Foy, please see him before you commune. Thank you

Distribution

Distribution Hymns - You may be seated.





Please rise.

Nunc Dimitis Gloria Patri omitted during Lent)

Thanksgiving 200
Salutation and Benedicamus 201
Benediction 202

Please face the procession until the celebrant has passed and then face back towards the altar.

823



<u>Altar flowers</u> are given to the Glory of God in thanksgiving to Him for the birth of Becky Wilburn and all life in Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 1:5 Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I sanctified you." Amen.

<u>CHILI COOKOFF TODAY</u>—Come one, come all to taste the chilis and vote for your favorite. You do have to have brought a chili to come. All proceeds are going to support Pastor Preus and his family in Romania. He is an LC-MS Missionary there. There is also chicken noodle soup and refreshments.

Special Congregation Meeting: Sunday March 17th immediately following the Divine Service, we will have a special congregation meeting in the Parish Hall. We want to discuss and seek approval for a wheel chair lift into the basement. Also, we would like to inform the congregation about the situation of the Westville property and decide which way to go. Thank you. Church Council

<u>PLEASE RETURN MY BOOKS</u>: I do not remember to whom I lent a couple of large three ring binders with teaching information on Creation vs Evolution from the Institute of Creation Research. If you have them would you please return them to me. Thank you. Pastor

<u>Gerhard Readings:</u> Each Tuesday and Thursday until Holy Week. I cannot encourage you enough if you have the time to come and hear. Each session is about 1 hour. They will be recorded and uploaded to the church website princeofpeacevalparaiso.com

ALL THINGS EASTER:

Easter Egg Hunt: Mark your calendars for our annual egg hunt Saturday March 23rd at 1:00 pm. Please sign up if you plan on attending. Also a sign-up sheet for candy needed to fill the eggs is on the white board in the foyer.

<u>Easter Breakfast</u> Please plan on joining us for Easter Breakfast Sunday March 31st at 7:30 am prior to our Worship Service. An attendance sign-up sheet and sign-up sheet for items needed for breakfast is located on the white board in the foyer.

<u>Thrivent Choice Dollars</u> Thrivent policy holders if you would like to designate Prince of Peace to be used for a mission project, for you choice dollars, you have until March 31st. Please go online and complete the form. Also, it's a new year and the Thrivent Action Teams \$250.00 twice a year is available to use for mission

projects. Please go online and complete that form also. Last year we were able to help with the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief, provided the main dish for an evening at Cafe Manna, and provided much needed paper products for Gabriel's Horn, the women's homeless shelter in Valparaiso. See Joann for suggestions for the Thrivent Action Teams \$250.00.

<u>Crafting Together:</u> A number of ladies are going to begin meeting on Thursday morning in the Parish Hall at 9:30 to do their crafts together and enjoy one another's company. Many are doing things with yarn or needle and thread but all crafts and ages are welcome. If you want to learn a craft, come.

<u>SUNDAY - Bible Study:</u> We are studying the Word of God, after the Divine Service, in the Parish Hall. We will begin at 10:45 and go to 11:30 each Sunday morning. Thank you. Pastor Foy

<u>WEDNESDAY – Bible Study:</u> We are studying the Gospel According to St. Matthew at 11:45 in the conference room on Wednesdays. Please join us if you are able. Pastor

For the coming Week

Organist: Jennifer Symer **Elders:** Jeff, Josh and Carl

Altar Guild Servers: Shirley, Cheryl

Bible Study: Wednesday 11:45

Bethesda Service: Wednesday 4pm

Service: Mon - Wed at 11am

Gerhard Readings: Tues & Thurs 12 noon

Midweek Soup/Salad and Service: Wednesday 6:00 pm

Visit our website: princeofpeacevalparaiso.com

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 234 W. Division Road – Valparaiso, IN 46385 princeofpeacelutheranchurch@gmail.com (219) 464-4911

Bookkeeper/Treasurer: popbookstreasurer@gmail.com
The Reverend William Foy, Pastor Cell Phone: (219) 613-3496
reverendfoy@gmail.com



Chrismon Corner

Lent 3 Lk 11.14-28 Blessed are those who hear God's Word & keep it

Crown of Life Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 ESV)

We need to take heed of Our Lord's warning today lest the unclean spirit cast out of us at Baptism return and find us swept and put in order not only for him but also for seven of his friends. It would be better to have never been baptized than to fall away.

God threatens to punish all who break His commandments, even the baptized. In the worst of situations, God punishes sin with sin. He threatens to harden and blind those who fall into false security, impenitence, and intentional sins. He threatens to hand them over to their baser desires and turn His back on them. His threats are not insincere or deceptive.

This does not mean that He did not want to save those who fall away, that their Baptisms were invalid. He did save them. He still loves and wants them. But He gives to us, the baptized, free will. He does not make us His slaves.

That freedom is dangerous. Foolish though it is, we are tempted back to the slavery of sin. To our shame, we sometimes indulge our sins and flirt with disaster. Repent. If we persist in our sins, refusing God's grace, insisting on our own way, then we will be hardened, blinded, and eternally damned. God is not mocked.

God wants to receive into grace all who repent and believe in Christ. He has died for all. He loves all, even the worst of sinners. Yet, at the same time, and without contradiction, He also wants to punish those who turn away from holy prayer and entangle themselves again in the defilements of this world, and who outrage the Holy Spirit.

God threatens to punish all who break His commandments. Therefore we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He also promises grace and every blessing to those who keep these commandments. Therefore we should not despair. Instead, we should love and trust in Him. In giving us the Holy Spirit, God gives us the ability to resist sin. We do not have to give into it.

The Holy Spirit creates in us a desire to obey God's commandments and please Him. This is not only because we fear His wrath. It is also because we love and trust in Him. This is faith: to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. Faith desires to keep the Law, but faith which trusts that God is good and His Word is good and His Law is good. Faith wants to do better, wants to amend our lives, and desires to please Our Father. We love God's Law. We accept its judgments and its rules as truly good, even if they are out of place in our culture.

"Blessed is he who hears the Word of God and keeps it" means "blessed is he who hears the Word of God and says 'amen' to it." Blessed is he who believes it, who does not turn away from God and insist on his sins. Blessed is he who does not come to God on his own terms and demand his own ways, but who hears and keeps the Word of God.

He guards and keeps us, in the preaching of His Gospel, in His Word and Sacraments. It is not our response to the Gospel that casts our demons or which keeps them out. His sacrifice and gift do that. Yet, at the same time, we are not His slaves. We have free will. So when He calls upon us as His brothers and His bride to guard and keep His Word, we do so gladly because we love and trust in Him.

Guarding and keeping the full counsel of God, all of His Word, both Law and Gospel, repenting, confessing, receiving, and rejoicing, this is true blessedness.



<u>Service Dates and times for Lent thru Easter</u> Mid-Week Wednesday Lenten Vesper Services – 7pm (light soup supper at 6pm preceding service) March 6th, 13th, 20th

> Holy week Services – Palm Sunday 9 am Evening Services

Maundy Thursday – March 28thth 7pm Good Friday – March 29th 7pm

Vigial of Easter – March 30th 8pm <u>AT ST PAUL CHESTERTON</u>

March 31st The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter

Breakfast 7:30am

Divine Service 9am

PRAYERS FOR:

- -Persecuted Christians everywhere and families of the martyred
- -All human life from conception unto natural death
- -All humans who are trafficked or enslaved -

PRAYER FOR SHUT-INS: Kathy Hegenow, Mike Foy, Darlene McDonald, Penny Robinson

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY: Craig McCall, Alex Sibert, Erich Sibert; Seneca Newkirk

PRAYER FOR HEALING:

Bonnie Broviak- Dr Care Pat Maile – Dr Care

Jim Brown- Cancer Dave McCall – Drs Care

Penny Robinson – Dr Care Jim DeSmith – Brain Cancer

Susan Snow – Burns Bobbie Nobles – Cancer Bill Lomas – Cancer Lil Johnston – Dr Care

Jo Thompson – Cancer Mary Cruz - ALS

Please give the Church Office updates Thank you Pastor

THOSE CELEBRATING BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie Canfield 3/4 Bob Scheub 3/5 Bill Griechen 3/6

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Bob Symer 3/3 Ava Dorulla 3/3 Bill Lomas 3/6 Becky Wilburn 3/8

THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Denis & Barb Raschke 3/6 Steve & Tara Pierce 3/9

THOSE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED

Christina Foy & Joey Moser June 8, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Rachel Wilburn & Alex Rodriguez

All Prince of Peace members are invited to all weddings ceremonies in the Church.

"The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together." - St. John Chrysostom, Homily 20 on Eph. 5