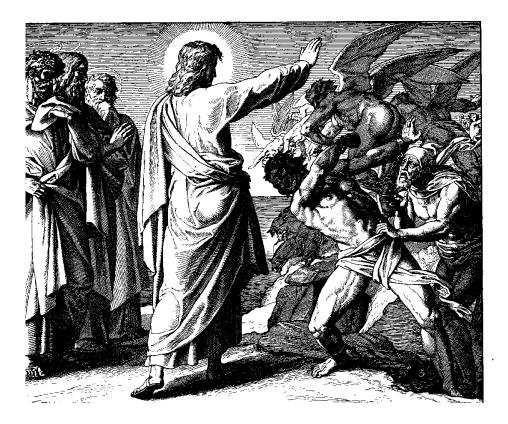
# **ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 7979 Commerce Road West Bloomfield, MI 48324 Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: info@stmarkwb.org Website: www.stmarkwb.org



# The Third Sunday in Lent

(Oculi) 23 March A≢D 2025 Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I

# + Welcome in the name of Jesus! +

Today we observe the Third Sunday in Lent. On this day, we focus on how Jesus sets us free from our spiritual captivity to sin and to Satan. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus overcame and bound the devil for us. And now He comes to us in grace to release us from our bondage with His powerful Word, that we, being forgiven of our sins, might serve Him forevermore in righteousness and truth.

If you are a <u>VISITOR</u> here, offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

# **Confession and Absolution**

Stand

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

- $\blacksquare$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- $\blacksquare$  If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- **C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

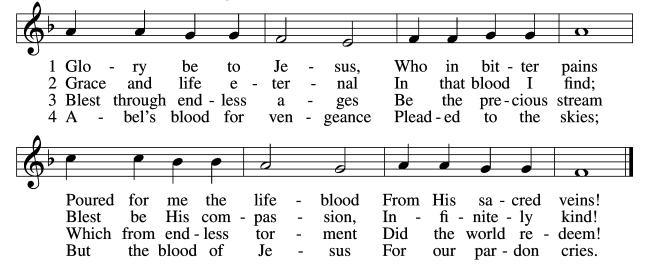
#### Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained 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.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 433 Glory Be to Jesus



- 5 Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Word

#### Introit (spoken responsively)

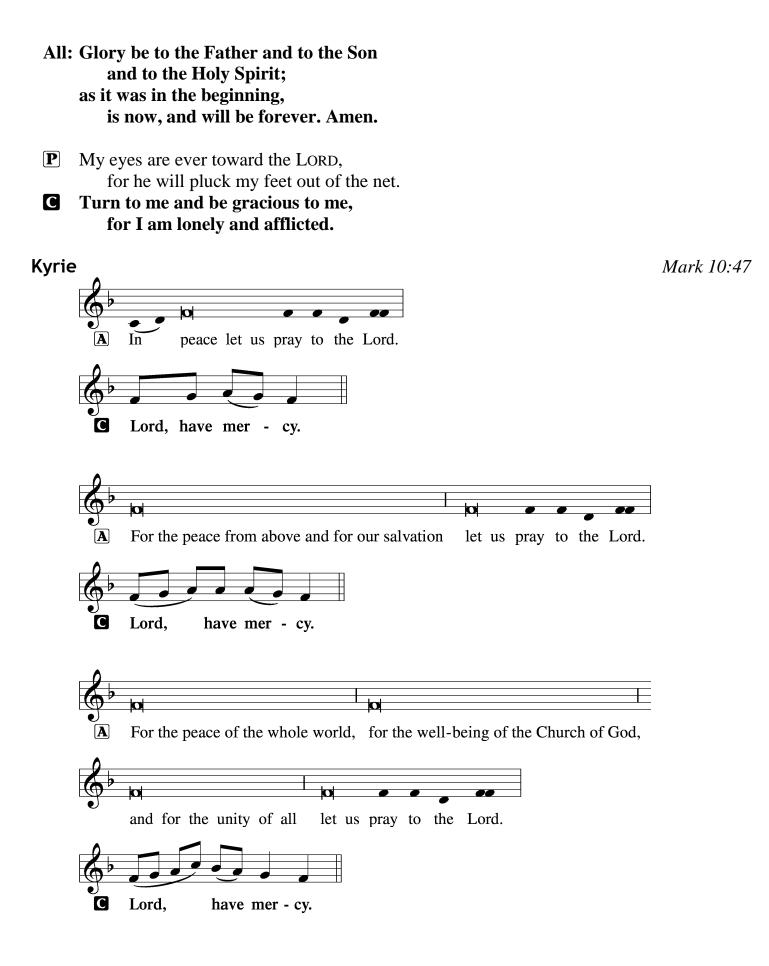
Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15-16

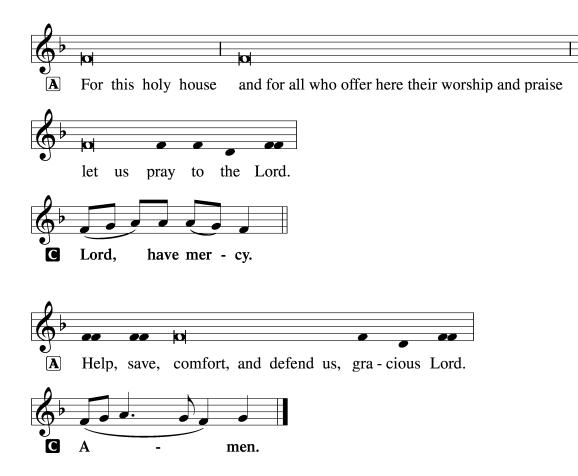
- My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
  - Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
- P To you, O LORD,

C

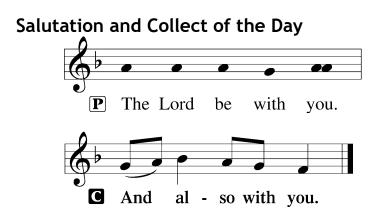
I lift up my soul.

- **C** O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.
- P The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.
- C Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.
- P Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.





(During Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted here.)



**P** Let us pray.

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.



#### Sit Old Testament Reading

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt." <sup>17</sup>And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. <sup>18</sup>The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. <sup>19</sup>Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. <sup>21</sup>Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. <sup>22</sup>But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. <sup>23</sup>Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen."" <sup>24</sup>And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Gradual (spoken responsively)

P Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you!

C When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before your presence.

# Epistle

*Ephesians* 5:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Psalm 9:19, 3

Exodus 8:16-24

#### **P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Stand

#### Tract

(During Lent, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is used instead.)

**P** To you I lift up my eyes,

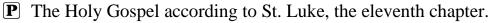
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

- **C** 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 upon us.
- Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us.

#### Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

Psalm 123:1–3a





<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

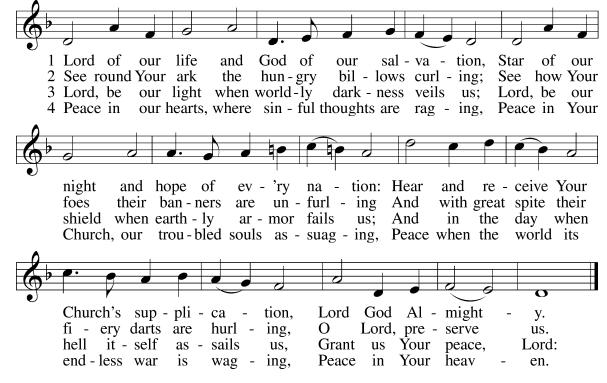
<sup>24</sup>"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

<sup>27</sup>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!" <sup>28</sup>But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

## Hymn of the Day: 659 Lord of Our Life



Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

#### Stand Apostles' Creed

During the season of Lent, the Apostles' Creed is confessed.

# **C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

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.

#### Prayer of the Church

▶ Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

#### Brief Silence

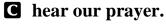
Almighty God, guard the souls of Your people against the devil and his angels who afflict the world. Arm Your Christians with spiritual weapons, sharpen their tongues with the words of Christ, and overthrow all the power of the devil. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### **C** hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, we thank You that Christ has disarmed the devil and liberated us by His blood, bringing us into His ranks together with all the saints. Preserve all Christians in the faith until life's end. Do not permit anyone to abandon or blaspheme Your Spirit's work and the forgiveness of sins. Turn us in brotherly love toward one another to live always according to God's holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### **C** hear our prayer.

▶ Lord God, You call us to live in purity and holiness. Protect and guide Christian families to love and seek chastity and decency, learning to grow in virtue and all godly living. Lord, in Your mercy,



 P O Lord, our defender, direct the hearts of our leaders and teach them to respond faithfully to the dangers and disasters that arise. Lead them to humble themselves under Your hand and serve their people sacrificially. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

- Lord, You remember those who suffer. Grant comfort, aid, healing and peace to the sick in their afflictions. <u>[especially</u>.] Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P Holy Father, grant unity to Your Church in her doctrine and life. Bless our hearing of your word this day, that our faith may be strengthened and our love for one another increased. Accept our sacrifice of thanksgiving and the tithes and offerings we bring in response to Your goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

P O God, our sword and shield, whose mighty finger drives out all the powers of darkness, fight for us, Your people. Cast out the devil, sweep clean our souls and fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit, that we may also fight the good fight of faith and dwell secure in Your kingdom of light. Lord, in Your mercy,

## **C** hear our prayer.

- ▶ Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take up our flesh, that He might overcome the devil and defend us poor sinners against the adversary. We thank You for Your merciful aid and implore You to attend us with Your grace in every temptation. Preserve us from carnal security and, by Your Spirit, keep us in Your Word and fear, that we may be delivered from the enemy and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

#### Sit Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.



# Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

 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.

# **Closing Collect**

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



*Numbers* 6:24–26

Closing Hymn: 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me



Tune:  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763 Text: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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# THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/23 Third Sunday in Lent
  - **Divine Service** at 9:30 a.m.
  - Adult Bible Study 10:45 am
- Thurs. 3/27 Quilting Bee 10 a.m.
- Fri. 3/28 Newsletter Distributed
- Sun. 3/30 Fourth Sunday in Lent
  - **Divine Service** at 9:30 a.m.
  - Adult Bible Study 10:45 am

# **TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<u>ADULT BIBLE STUDY</u> will be held at 10:45 am in the fellowship hall which is located in the lower level. Members and non - members are invited to attend.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS** provided to us courteous from The Lutheran Hour, have been printed up, and are found on the table in the rear of the church. You also can pick one up in the lobby on the table as you enter or exit the church from the parking lot side.

**THE PEOPLE OF ST. MARKS ARE INVITED TO PEACE LUTHERAN, AS THEY CONTINUE HOSTING LENT MID WEEK SERVICES**. They will also be having a meal before service at 6:00 pm, usually with a suggested donation of \$4.00, to cover the cost of the food and setting up. There will be a sign-up sheet at Peace if anyone is interested or let the office know if any might be interested. Service will be at 7:00 p.m.

**LADIES OF ST. MARK'S:** The LWML Multi Lakes Zone is in need of a Co-Chair as the current one has had to resign. Our zone is in need of a delegate for the National convention in Omaha, NE in June. If you have any interest in these positions, please call Leslie Oehring for further information. Thank you!

<u>**LWML – MULTI – LAKES ZONE SPRING RALLY</u>** is being held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at Hope Lutheran 7355 W. Silver Lake Rd., Linden, MI 48451. It will run from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. It will include: Continental Breakfast and Lunch (to be determined), they intend to have Loose Senior Choir at the event. They also will be collecting "Pay It Forward" non-perishable food items. They request that you register by calling: 810-735-4807 by March 30<sup>th</sup>.</u>

<u>QUESTION BOX:</u> Today and next week, there will be a box available for you to place up to 5 questions that you may want to ask during the interviewing process with the candidate churches. We have provided for you some paper and a box to put them in after you have completed your questions. Please understand that **this box will only be available today, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and next Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> for your questions.** Please place them in the box

after completion. After, the Ad Hoc Committee will review the questions to see how they can be implemented into the conversation or depending on the question, it can be found out, if not already known.

#### 2026 LWML MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION. THIS WILL BE HELD IN EAST LANSING AT THE KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER FROM JUNE 25 – 28, 2026. The HOSTING Zones are Multi Lakes, Thumb; Wayne Oak Hills.

We will need volunteers from all of your churches to help make this convention a success. There are many sub-committees that need to be manned, and I am hoping to enlist your help to fill them.

I am asking all of you and your churches to prayerfully consider joining us in making this a wonderful event. At this time, I have selected 8 committees that the MULTI LAKES Zone will potentially be responsible for. This can change and other committees may need to be selected but at this time I ask that you think about being a part of one or more of these committees. Convention Committees:

1 - BREAKOUT - these are the sessions that attendees go to during the non-voting periods of the convention. There will be a variety of informational sessions that delegates can attend to learn more about certain organizations or programs that the LWML has helped in the past and continue to support. Volunteers would help with distributing informational materials and the meals for the attendees.

2 - INFORMATION DESK - this will be staffed daily during the convention and during free time: Volunteers will provide schedules; parking vouchers; maps; daily newsletters; prayer requests; information on the election results; Gifts from the Heart totals; Walk/Run collection totals; servant event totals; Emergency contact information for Emergency Response team; Convention evaluations.

3 - CONVENTION FLOOR - Volunteers would make name cards for the delegates, board members, and special guests. Sets up and breaks down zone markers & amp; name cards, banners & flags as needed. Procures special delegate gifts for tables.

4 - LWML BOOTH - In the Exhibitor hall - works with Exhibits committee - staff's booth daily - works with District Christian Growth Coordinator to assist with booth.

5 – LOST /FOUND – work with Guest Services schedules, manages, staffs. Request space; prepares Room Setup Request from Convention Manager.

6 – REGISTRATION – Registrar creates online registration form with information from Convention Manager, District President and committees, obtaining District President approval before publication. Coordinates food packages, Charms, Shirts, breakout sessions, choir, housing, and special events. Provides registration numbers to Convention Manager, District President and responsible committees/Executive Committee. Reports delegates alternates to Recording Secretary. Works with Tote Bag committee for stuffing relevant materials. Resolves registration payment issues, email confirmations.

7 - STORE - Staffs LWML store during convention. Works with District Christian Materials Coordinator.

8 – VOTING – Hostesses, Ushers, pages (as necessary); YWRs (as necessary) support voting activities during sessions (collection of paper ballots, distribution of handouts, etc.)

I know that this is a huge undertaking, but with the Lord's help and guidance we can accomplish these tasks. Please meet with your ladies' groups, share with your other church groups and even the youth groups, as "Pages" will be needed to help at the convention. IF you could get back to me before MARCH 31 with your questions, volunteers and suggestions, I would greatly appreciate it.

I can be reached at work: St. Paul Community Lutheran – 248-758-9019 (Tues, Wed, Thurs) or my cell phone: 248-408-9863 (texting works best). OR Email be at mvidolich2011@gmail.com.

# **TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER** – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

**WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT** used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

**ST. MARK'S HAS BEEN INVITED** to join them at St. Stephen Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 30th at 12:00pm, to listen to Major Jon Turnbull share how our Lord comes to us in the midst of suffering and loss, to guide, comfort, and strengthen our faith in Him. There will be a luncheon beginning at 11:15am for anyone who would like to join us. NO COST | FREE-WILL OFFERING Please RSVP by Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Location is: St. Stephen Lutheran Church

3795 Sashabaw Rd. Waterford, MI 48329 248-673-6621 office@ststephenwaterford.org

# THE FATHER'S HANDS FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING OUR FOOD PANTRY is

in dire need of the following items:

<u>The food locker needs</u>: Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pasta mac and cheese boxes, tuna, canned chicken or any canned meat, protein beans, canned pasta dinners, Rice, canned vegetables, both starchy and non-starchy, canned or dried fruit, soups, Raman noodles, protein bars, dried potatoes

**For large family supplement bags:** large cans of canned meat, dried milk, fruits and veggies, large family dried soups, large family sized baked beans, large family sized spaghetti sauce, large family sized spaghetti noodles; family sized shampoo and conditioner

**For personal bags:** toilet paper, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, Diapers - size 4,5 & 6 and newborns. And wipes

We are open for drop off on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-4:30 and Wednesdays from Noon - 5pm. We greatly appreciate any and all donations. Address: 1133 Joslyn Ave, Pontiac, MI 48340

#### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE LENT FOR 40 DAYS?

Don't forget what Lent is all about!

It is a time when we are reminded of what Jesus gave up for us, and a time when we look forward to and prepare for the solemn commemoration of His death and the joyful celebration of His resurrection!

We celebrate Lent for six weeks, or 40 days, as we remember Christ's temptation in the wilderness as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. There Jesus was without food for 40 days.

We remember the testing of the Israelites in the desert after the Lord had delivered them from Egypt. This lasted 40 years.

Finally, we can remember the story of Noah and his family. After 40 days and 40 nights of rain, the Lord delivered them as He promised.

During these 40 days of Lent, we remember God's faithfulness to His people and how His faithfulness is complete in Jesus, our Savior. Jesus remains faithful to us, always being where He promises to be: in His Word and Sacraments. Wow! What a Savior!

X

#### SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister Altar Guild Elder on Duty Greeter(s) Offering Counters Organists Usher Pastor Frank Pies Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald None Cathy Fitzgerald Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead Rob Wheeler Tom Kaufman

X

#### SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister Altar Guild Elder on Duty Greeter(s) Offering Counters Organists Usher Pastor Terry Nelson Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald None Gail Fitzgerald Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead Rob Wheeler John Reardon