

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
The Watchman for the House
March 23 & 24, 2019
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Someone's always watching. At least it seems that way, doesn't it? In a world full of security cameras and alarm systems, there seem to be millions of ways to keep your property secure and guard your valuables from intruders who would seek to cause trouble. But what are your thoughts about having someone—an actual living, breathing person—to watch over you and your family at all times and in all places? Lest we think that a security detail like that is available only to the rich and the powerful, listen to what the Lord God said to Ezekiel: "Son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel" (Ezekiel 33:7). The entire house of God, which has been watched over by the prophets of old, is now under the authority and care of the Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ. He is your ultimate watchman who guards and protects you from the threats of the evil thief who "comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Place yourself under the watchful eye and merciful care of this watchman today! Watch Him, hear Him, and receive Him as He serves you in His Father's house and fills you with the life that He alone can provide.

WELCOME

"Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds." Hosea 6:1, NIV

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

1 continued

When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

(Rise)

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, you take no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

People: You call your people to turn to you and live.

Pastor: Therefore, we turn to you, Father, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Hear us as we come before you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Father, your voice of truth confronts us in our sin.

People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

Pastor: Your Son stands as the watchman over your house, calling us to repentance and faith.

People: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Pastor: Your Spirit leads us to acknowledge our rebellion against you so that, confessing our sins, we might receive your pardon and peace.

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways.

People: Bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word.

Pastor: We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7-20* (The prophet serves as a watchman for the house of Israel.) “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.” “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?” “And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. “Yet your people say, “The way of the

Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 10:1-13* (Our faithful God provides the way of escape to help us endure our trials and temptations.) For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM *“Sweet Are the Prayers of a Friend”*

Oo, Oo, Sweet are the prayers of a friend. How Sweet, how sweet are the prayers, are the prayers, that are offered up by a friend, by a friend who calls, calling up to heav’n, calling, “Lord, come down, come down and bless again.” Friends, Friends pray for healing, they pray revealing the heavy burden of our souls. They pray for courage, unfailing courage, asking God to make us whole. O how sweet are the prayers, are the prayers that are offered up by a friend, by a friend who calls, calling up to heav’n, calling, “Lord, come down, come down and bless again.” Friends pray us through troubles, through all our struggles when life seems to fall apart.

They pray us through grieving, always believing, Our God can heal the broken heart, the broken heart, the broken heart. How sweet! Are the prayers that offered up by a friend who calls, calling up to heav'n calling, "Lord, come down, come down and bless again." Come, come down and bless again. Oo, Oo, Sweet are the prayers of a friend for a friend.

(Rise)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL *Luke 13:1-9* (Jesus warns us that we will all perish unless we repent.)

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands 'Tis a delightful road-

Nor let my head of heart or hands Offend against my God.

SERMON *"Jesus, the Watchman Over Our Souls"* Luke 13 & Ezekiel 33

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

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

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace, that we may repent of our sins and walk in the way of righteousness, and for an end to complaints against the Lord and His mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to recognize Christ, the rock of our salvation, and for the wisdom to recognize temptation and the strength to withstand it, that we might escape the deception of the enemy and the prison of doubt, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to provide good and faithful pastors and church workers, for the Spirit's guidance to hear and heed the counsel of the Word, and for the faith to manifest in holy lives the fruits of the Spirit and show forth Christ who lives in us by Baptism, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to guide and bless government leaders in all nations; for peace and an end to war, violence and terror; and for a willingness to work together for the common good while protecting the unborn, the aged and the frail, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to bring comfort and support to those around the world facing calamities and natural disasters, and that we might respond with the support of prayer and finances, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace in our homes, for faithful husbands and wives, for women bearing children, for those who yearn for children and have none, for those with the pain of miscarriage, and for grace to raise our children to know and love the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the gift of life and all its blessings, for the Weil family celebrating Eleanor's 85th birthday, and remembering Cindy on her 62nd birthday, for the Ross family as they celebrate Tim and Joe's birthdays, for Sharon as she remembers Richard and Renee, that we would be thankful for our blessings and treasure the people in our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy,

Pastor: For grace for the ill, for those recovering from hospitalization or illness, for the aged and infirm, for the widow and orphan, for those persecuted because of the faith, for those for whom our prayers have been requested: Marion, Katie, Marilyn, Susan, Grant, Henry, LuEva, Marge, Dolores, Dick, Herb, Cindy, Arlene, Shirley, Russ, Gladys, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Sarah and those now named in our hearts, and for God to grant them healing and strength according to His benevolent will and purpose, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For comfort and peace for those who grieve, especially the Folger family upon Darlene's death and the Kadis family upon the death of Chris, that even in grief they may find hope and joy through faith in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to receive the body and blood of Christ in this blessed Communion, for unity of faith and for His divine love to have its way with us, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to remember with thanksgiving the faithful who went before us and now rest from their labors, and for our endurance, that we may not give up the hope planted within us in our Baptism but receive the crown of everlasting life prepared for those who love the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #641 “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

**Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam’ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav’nly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord?

The myst’ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity.

HYMN #628 “Your Table I Approach”

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way:
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
so take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

People: and His mercy endureth forever.

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, that we forever dwell under the watchful eye of our watchman and Savior; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord, who watches over us.

People: Thanks be to God for His never-failing love!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #918 "Guide Me. O Thou Great Redeemer"

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Noah Kegley
Children's Message	Laurel Privatt
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Jim Adams
Acolytes	Lillia Carson
Organist	Michelle Prince

Lenten Midweek Worship
Wednesday at 10:00am & 6:00pm
The Gatherings and Feasts of Israel
A Lenten Series by Pastors Bender and Kegley

March 27 - Succoth - The Feast of Tabernacles
Dinner: Sloppy Joe's, Macaroni & Cheese

April 3 - Rosh Hashanah - The Feast of Trumpets
Baked Potato Bar