



*He became the source
of eternal salvation
to all who obey him.*

Hebrews 5:9

**March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com
701-462-3775

PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(A new covenant between God and his people came through Jesus Christ, who will reign as king and high priest forever. Jesus reminded his followers that to be a part of this new covenant is to be slave of all and servant of all, for the Son of Man came not to be served, but to be the one to serve others. His life, death, and resurrection are his “ransom” in exchange for the lives of his beloved children who believe.)

WELCOME

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

HYMN LBW #559

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 559

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing My great Re-deem-er's praise, The
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim, To
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears And bids our sor-rows cease, Sings
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; He sets the pris-'ner free. His

glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of his grace!
spread through all the earth a-broad The hon-ors of your name.
mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, Brings life and health and peace.
blood can make the foul-est clean; His blood a-vails for me.

5 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n

By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESSp. 56

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

(God declared that a new day was coming when he would make a new covenant with his people, a covenant unlike the one made with the patriarchs of the faith and the slaves of Egypt. The first covenant was broken by a disobedient people who refused to obey God’s law. This covenant will be written on the hearts of the people.)

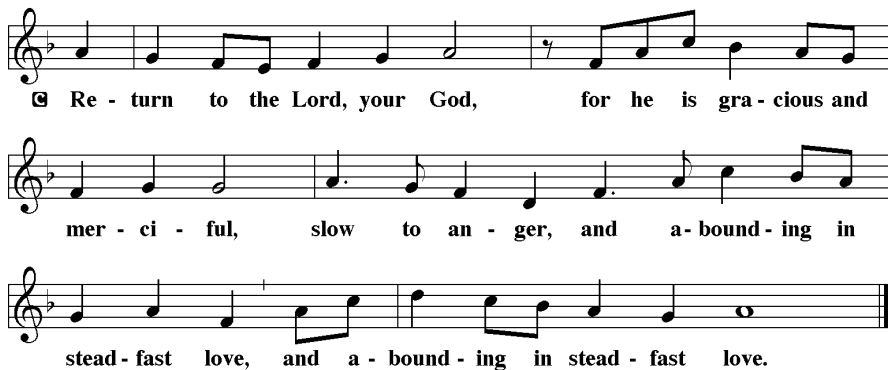
³¹{Thus says the LORD,} “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:1-10
(Those who were appointed as high priests in Old Testament Israel still had to make sin offerings for their own sins as well as for the sins of others. Jesus, who was perfect, was designated by God as both king and priest. His final sacrifice of his life granted us eternal life.)

¹For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RETURN TO THE LORD



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READINGMark 10:32-45

(As Jesus predicted his death a third time to his disciples, two disciples asked for places of honor once he was on the throne. "You have no idea what you are asking," Jesus responded to their request. They thought they could handle what was about to happen, but Jesus knew how ill prepared they actually were.)

³²{The disciples} were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles.

³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." ³⁵And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

³⁶And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

³⁷And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup

that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Pastor Paul Krueger
 “The Way of Suffering; The Way of Hope” - Mark 10:32-45

APOSTLES’ CREEDp. 65

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

HYMN "The Old Rugged Cross"

The Old Rugged Cross

GEORGE BENNARD, 1873-1958

GEORGE BENNARD, 1873-1958

1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross, The em-blem of
 2. O that old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world, Has a won-drous at-
 3. In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, A won-drous
 4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev-er be true, Its shame and re-

suf-fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dear-est and best
 trac-tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo-ry a-bove
 beau-ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died
 proach glad-ly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,

CHORUS
 For a world of lost sin-ers was slain.
 To bear it to dark Cal-va-ry. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged
 To par-don and sanc-ti-fy me. cross, the
 Where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share.

cross,
 old rug-ged cross,
 Till my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the

old rug-ged cross,
 cross, the old rug-ged cross,
 And ex-change it some day for a crown.

OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (2 Aisle Floor Stations)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Lamb of God – p. 72

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. A square symbol (☐) is placed at the beginning of the first line of lyrics. The music ends with a double bar line.

WOV #780 – “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

LBW #316 – “Jesus, the Very Thought of You”

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

780

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

G Am C G D

- 1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine,
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

G Am C G D⁷ G

what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

G C G D G D

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

G C G D⁷ G

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

316

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you Fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; Help us to prize your love;

But sweet-er far your face to view And rest with - in your light.
A sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
How kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
Grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

*Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.
Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876*

ST. AGNES
CM

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

Psalm 32:10

P: 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

Numbers 6:24-26

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN LBW #479

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

TRUST, GUIDANCE

479

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
 My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
 trust re - move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

INTERIM PASTOR..... Pastor Paul Krueger
ACOLYTES..... Jaxon Solomonson & Miley Blackaby
USHERS/GREETERS Cody & Brittany Kroll Family
READER Rick Richard
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS Rick Richard
Randy & Gwen Hall
ORGANIST LeAnn Richard
VIRTUAL SERVICE DJ Winter
ALTAR GUILD..... Claudette Ness & Maybell Job
FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR Kristi Olson
Rhonda Johnson
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Emily Retterath
Suzy Jacobson & Beth Knutson

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INTERIM PASTOR: Paul Krueger email:

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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: flc@westriv.com

Website: www.flcwashburn.com

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe

Email: fly@westriv.com

OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30

W – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall

CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

Dear ones, welcome to worship as we gather in Jesus' name as one family in God's embrace. Amen.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Wednesday, March 6th, Attendance – 103

Online Viewing – 15

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$789.00

Sunday, March 10th, Attendance – 109

Online Viewing – 26

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$4,980.93

Hearing Assist

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Receive the bread into your open, flat palm. Ask if you wish to receive grape juice or a gluten free wafer. Alert an usher if you, or someone you know, needs communion served in the pew.

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

This week we pray for:

This Week's New Prayer Requests:

Prayers of Christian Sympathy: Families of Maynard Thompson, Russ Olson and Ron Leidholm

Long Term prayer requests:

Members: Alton Krebsbach, Melisa Chrest, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

This month we pray for:

Members: Jackie Olson, Judy Beaudry

Friends & Family: Perry Thyberg, Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson)

This Quarter we pray for:

Members:

Military Prayer and Card List

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

- **Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard:**
 - SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard
 - SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed
 - SPC Christian Gardner – Army National Guard
 - SPC Cassidy Sommer – National Guard
 - SGT Jonathan Melvard – Army National Guard
- **Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:**
 - SGT Dustin Enockson – National Guard
 - Emily Johnson – Air Force
 - Bryar Anderson – Marines
 - 1SGT Jordan Ternes – Army National Guard
 - Tech. SGT Andre Austin – Air Force
 - Hunter Feigum – National Guard
 - Morris Duffy – Medical Air Guard
 - Brandon Searcy – Navy – Deployed
 - Adam Walsvik – National Guard

Notice of Prayer List Policy

We have a monthly /quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our “This Quarter we pray for:” list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God’s people.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to:

- ⇒ Eric & Leilani Olafson and family on the death of Leilani’s father, Maynard Thompson. Visitation is from 2 – 4 pm today at Thompson-Larson Funeral Home in Minot. Funeral is Monday, March 18, at 11:00 am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Upham, ND.
 - ⇒ Jeff & Nancy Leidholm on the death of Jeff’s father, Ron Leidholm. Ron’s funeral was this past week.
- May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

Large Print Bulletins

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

Flowers

Altar flowers today are from Kris & Melanie Beckman in memory of loved ones. Other flowers are from the funeral of Ron Leidholm.

Church Council Meeting

Church Council will meet this Monday, March 18th, at 6:30 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have all articles for the April newsletter to the church office by noon this Tuesday, March 19th.

Lenten Meal

Join us this Wednesday, March 20th, from 5:30 – 6:45 pm for our Lenten meal served by the Evangelism & Stewardship Committees. They will be serving sloppy joes, salads, chips and dessert. Freewill offering.

Lenten Worship

Join us this Wednesday, March 20th, at 7:00 pm for our Lenten worship service, “Golgotha: A Place of Suffering”.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet this Thursday, March 21st, at 9:30 am at the church. Donna Gunderson & LeAnn Richard host. Study is Tender Warrior – Lesson 3.

Call Committee

The call committee will meet at noon on Sunday, March 24th.

Brass Players Wanted and Practice Time

We are looking for brass players that would like to play on Easter Sunday at the 9:30 am service (and if willing at the 7:00 am as well). Please call the church office or talk to Jeannette if you are interested and let her know what instrument you will be playing. Pastor Paul has the music. Practice with the organ will be on Thursday, March 28th, at 5:00 pm.

First Communion Class

5th Graders at First Lutheran Church or anyone older that is not already taking communion are invited to join Pastor Krueger on Sunday afternoon, March 24th, for First Communion Classes. It is customary for our children to have the privilege of growing their faith through the Sacrament of Holy Communion alongside their family members. Pastor Krueger will take our kids through the meaning of Holy Communion and the benefits that our Lord Jesus gives us through receiving the sacrament with first communion happening for our children at our Maundy Thursday worship service on March 28th. Our First Communion class will be held from 2 – 4 pm on Sunday, March 24th. Mom’s and dad’s, please call the church office at 462-3775 to let us know your child will be attending.

Easter Lily Forms

We invite you to help decorate First Lutheran this Easter with your Easter Lilies and Easter plants. Forms are in the March newsletter and on the table in the narthex. Please attach the form to your Easter Lily or plant and bring it to the secretary's hallway no later than noon on March 27th to be listed in the Easter bulletins.

Thrivent Choice Members

Thrivent Choice Members, a reminder if you already haven't, March 31st is the last day to direct your remaining 2023 Choice Dollars. First Lutheran received \$1,031.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding in 2023. Thank you to all that donated your choice dollars to First Lutheran.

Confirmation Café Servers Needed

We are looking for a couple people each of the following Wednesdays to volunteer to make and serve a meal to our confirmation students and helpers. Serving begins between 5:15 pm and 5:30 pm and ends at 6:15 pm. You decide the meal you want to serve. April 17 & 24. Contact Claudette Ness with questions or if you are willing to make and serve a meal. People that have already served enjoy seeing the kids and how polite they are. Thank you to all that have stepped up and helped out so far.

Camp of the Cross Camp Scholarships

THANKS to the FLC Church Council, FLCW, Evangelism Committee and an anonymous party, all registration fees will be covered for the FLC campers to Camp of the Cross Ministries this summer. There is an early bird discount for registering with CCM by **April 1, 2024**. Please let Peggy Moran know by **May 19, 2024**, if you have any campers registered so funds can be sent to the camp before camp season begins. An information sheet and note to Parents of 2nd through 12th graders will be out in the next few weeks.

Connections

The March/April issue of *Connections* is in the magazine rack in the narthex. Take a copy today to read updates on the LCMC and NALC plus other interesting articles.

Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer

The March/April/May issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the January – March 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

COMMUNITY AND AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ⇒ **BIO (Beautiful Inside and Out) Girls** is looking for a local leader to grow their organization in Washburn! BIO Girls is a proven program to increase self esteem in school age girls. For information on how you can help, contact Laura at 701-388-0002 or email her at laura@biogirls.org. If you'd like to learn more visit www.biogirls.org.
- ⇒ **Easter Egg Hunt** at St. Edwins Catholic Church on March 23rd at 10:00 am for children 12 and younger. Bring your own Easter Basket. Join them for fun. Refreshments will be served in the hall. Dress for the weather as the hunt will be outside.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Reading
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
MON.	6:30 PM	Church Council Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
	Noon	Newsletter Deadline
WED.	9:30 AM	Friendship Bible Study
	5:30 – 6:45 PM	Lenten Meal Served by Evangelism & Stewardship Committees
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
	7:45 PM	Choir
		FLY
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study at the Church
SUN.	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Baptisms
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Reading
	2:00 – 4:00 PM	First Communion Class
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Fifth Sunday in Lent — March 17, 2024

*“So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest,
but was appointed by him who said to him,*

*‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’; as he says also in another place,
‘You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.’”*

– Hebrews 5:5-6 –

Queen Victoria of England was only nineteen years old when she was crowned; until that day she was always under supervision. Her ascension to the throne was the first time she was free. She rebelled at first, partying late into the night. In retrospect, she considered that time “the least satisfactory time in her whole life.” She eventually learned what it meant to be a good leader, surrounding herself with strong advisors and helpers, including her husband Albert. Together they made the nation strong; they prospered in economics, industry, science, culture, and the military. All the while she managed to keep a loving home, actively involved with her nine children.

What made Victoria a successful leader? How was she able to prosper a nation while maintaining a loving home? At all times she sought the best for her country and people. She did not seek power, but rather humbled herself, serving her nation for sixty-four years in humility. She consulted her advisors who helped her make the right decisions. Her success was an achievement of character; her reign was one of honesty and simplicity. Her humility did not make her weak; she was a strong leader who ruled in the best interest of her people.

It is so easy to fall into the trap of power. Many kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, bishops and pastors, CEOs and governors think that their position gives them the authority to control the lives of those over whom they rule instead of remembering that they have been called to serve. We don’t even have to be in a position of leadership to fall into the temptation of controlling those around us. We think we know it all, and that eventually leads us to become self-appointed rulers.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus also knew himself to be a servant. He was identified as the Son of God with God’s own voice. He was obedient to the One who sent Him, sharing the same will as he continues to reign as eternal Priest and King. He did not choose these roles; He is the eternal fulfillment of all God’s promises.