



*LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT*

1285 North New Florissant Road, Florissant, Missouri 63031  
Church: (314) 837-1224 School/Child Care: (314) 837-1252  
[www.alcs-web.com](http://www.alcs-web.com)

*Sunday, March 23, 2025*

*8:15 a.m.*

*Welcome to Worship at Atonement*

- ***We are delighted to have you worship at Atonement today. Wherever you are on your journey of faith and life, we extend to you a warm welcome. May the Holy Spirit richly bless your worship.***
- We invite you to fill out the attendance form in the bulletin and hand it to the ushers when coming forward for Holy Communion. If you are a guest with us this morning, please leave some contact information so we can get in touch with you about how to connect with what's going on in this faith community.
- Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing-impaired and those with hearing aids are available. Large print worship folders are also available. Please ask an usher prior to the service.
- We welcome to the Lord's Table all Baptized Christians who commune in their home parish and who wish to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Those with questions about the meaning of Holy Communion or who wish a private confession and absolution should contact a pastor during the week prior to communing.
- Both individual cups and the chalice (common cup) are now offered to communicants. The chalice is available only for intinction (dipping the host into the wine). The darker wine in the center of the tray is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the pastor. Those desiring a blessing may fold their arms across their chests.
- The congregation responds with those portions in **bold** print.
- Please turn off all cell phones and pagers and refrain from flash photography.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Meets today during the 8:15 a.m. service.

**CONFIRMATION:** Meets today at 9:30 a.m.

**ADULT FORUM:** Meets today in Small Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSONS:**

**Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*  
*March 23, 2025, Third Sunday in Lent*

**PRELUDE: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” - Sharon Elery Rogers**

**+++ GATHERING +++**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The assembly stands.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C We confess that we are captive 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 God, who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive  
together with Christ.

By grace, you have been saved.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God  
strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts  
through faith.

**C Amen.**

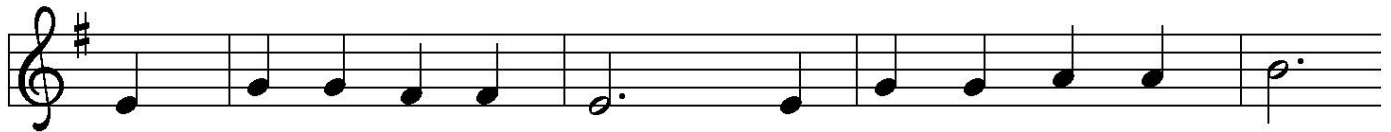
## GATHERING HYMN ELW 756 “*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*”

### GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

### KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

+ + + **WORD** + + +

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

R Word of God, Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE: Choir** *“May Love Be Ours, O Lord”* - Richard W. Gieseke

Not for tongues of heaven's angels, Not for wisdom to discern,  
Not for faith that masters mountains, For this better gift we yearn.  
May love be ours, may love be ours, may love be ours, O Lord!

Love is humble, love is gentle, Love is tender, true and kind.  
Love is gracious, ever patient, Generous of heart and mind.  
May love be ours, may love be ours, may love be ours, O Lord!

Never jealous, never selfish, Love will not rejoice in wrong;  
Never boastful nor resentful, Love believes and suffers long.  
May love be ours, may love be ours, may love be ours, O Lord!

Soon will fade the word of wisdom, Faith and hope be one day past;  
When we see our Savior clearly, Love it is alone will last.  
May love be ours, may love be ours may love be ours, O Lord!

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R Word of God, Word of Life.

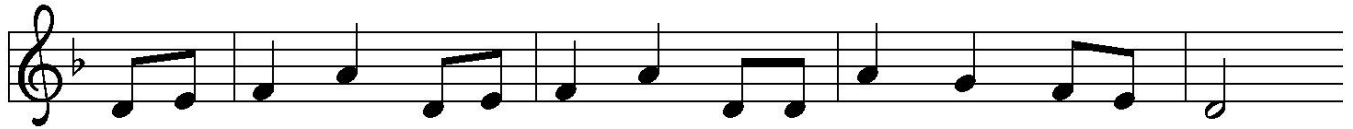
**C Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

*The children are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a children’s message.*

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Larry Lemke*

*The assembly stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 508 “As Rain From the Clouds” vs. 1**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Each petition concludes:* God, in your mercy,  
**Receive our prayer**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet each other with a sign of peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words. Then the assembly is seated.*



+++ MEAL +++

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.  
The gifts of our tithes and offerings are presented and the altar is  
prepared for the Lord's Supper.*

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

**OFFERTORY: ELW 188 "Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God"**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The assembly is seated.*

*The ushers invite the assembly forward, where they receive bread and either wine or grape juice. If you need to receive communion in your pew, please let the usher(s) know.*

## “Lamb of God”



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 508 "As Rain From the Clouds" vs. 2-3

ACS 967 "This is Christ's Body" sing twice

### This Is Christ's Body



This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,



bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960  
Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ  
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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ELW 306 "Come, Beloved of the Maker"

*The assembly stands.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**+++ SENDING +++**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BLESSING**

P The God of love,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 726 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: "Brother James' Air" - Alice Jordan**

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*Please stick around for coffee, donuts and fellowship in the family room!  
All are welcome.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher.....*Pastor Larry Lemke*  
Assisting Ministers.....*(8:15) Jennifer Negwer, Carol Meier;*  
*(10:45) Vickie Minter, Greg Viehman*  
Bell Choir Director.....*Sharon Carter Eichenberger*  
Organist.....*Cindy Vantine*  
Choir Director.....*Dr. Bruce Vantine*  
Altar Guild..... *Dave & Anita Cole;*  
*Verina Ruiz, Cindy Steinbruegge*  
Greeters.....*(8:15) Mary Beth & Jeff Sandcork;*  
*(10:45) Melanie White*  
Counters .....*TBD*  
Ushers.....*(8:15) Tom Blight*  
*(10:45) Dave Johnson, Marge Purgahn, John Yetter*  
Trustees.....*(8:15) Don Meier; (10:45) Vern Square*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Death:** Gail Mueller (sister-in-law of Barb Stoneburner), who passed away on March 16

**Hospitalized or Ill:** Ann Behrens, Faith Brooks, Ginny Groves, Shirl Henke, Darlene Johnson, Tom Lanzer, Sharon Love, Jane Mark, June Schmidt, Liz Stengel, Barb Wishon

**Our Loved Ones/Friends:** Kathy Amido (sister-in-law of Kris Thompson), Jeremy Atchley, (nephew of Anna Moore), Kathleen Boyd, Becky Cole (sister of Dave Cole), Susan Hall (friend of Joyce Pingel), Ian Hawkins (son of Faith Brooks), Ted Hinkebein, Joyce Johnson (sister of Patrick Walker), Myra Jordan (friend of Ginny Groves), Kelly Keel (daughter of Larry & Joyce Hanebrink), Abby Pruitt-Pimentel (friend of Emma & Evan White and Jeanine Dalton), Donna Roche, Martha Sanford (relative of Greg & Paula Viehman), Trevor Thwing (grandson of Jeanette Thwing), Dennis Whittington (Dad of Mary Beth Sandcork)

**Our chronically-ill and homebound loved ones and friends:** Jean Beck, Jacki Bickel, Teri Branhof, Gus and Thelma Carlson, Carol Hegger, Nancy Marxkors, John Meyer, Vivian Meyer, Maxine Pabst, Jim Temps, Joan Torbeck, Cheryl Tucker

***\*\*Copies of Taking Faith Home are available at the usher stand or on the table in the narthex.***

## OUR CONGREGATION

Atonement is a family of professing Christians who are in ministry to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been in ministry since September 30, 1951. Atonement School has begun its 69th academic year with the mission statement “Teaching children of God the skills needed for a lifetime of learning, worshipping, and caring, so that the world see Jesus in them.”

## OUR AFFILIATIONS

We are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and support local ministries including Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Humanitri, Lutheran High Schools, LuMin Campus Ministry, PAKT, and The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM).

## OUR TEAM

Senior Pastor and Pastoral Care  
Rev. Larry Lemke, (314) 307-4363  
lalemke@sbcglobal.net

Bruce and Cindy Vantine  
Ministers of Music

Jim Baumgartner, Worship, Too!  
jimstrat@aol.com, (314) 488-6903

Sharon Carter  
Bell Choir Director

Cathy Mifflin  
Parish Administrator, (314) 837-1224  
cathy.mifflin@alcs-web.com

Principal, Ted Jander (314) 837-1252

Angie Kemper  
School Secretary, (314) 837-1252  
Child Care (314) 837-1252

Parish Nurses: Joyce Pingel, L.P.N., (314) 740-2137  
Cathie Lehr, R.N., (314) 809-4477

## OUR CALENDAR

*This Sunday, Third Sunday in Lent*  
8:15 a.m. Holy Communion Worship  
Sunday School  
9:25 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
9:30 a.m. Confirmation / 9:30 Adult Forum  
Blood Pressures Taken Between Services and After  
Late Service

### Monday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi Classes  
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga Classes  
5:00 p.m. APTO Dining out at Culvers, until 8 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 26

8:45 a.m. Chapel. All Welcome!  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi Classes  
11:00 a.m. Lenten Prayer Vigil  
7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship

### Thursday, March 27

9:30 a.m. Bible & Breakfast

### Friday, March 28

### Saturday, March 29

9:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, held off-site

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Simply use the QR code on the bottom. It will take you directly to Atonement’s giving through Tithe.ly. This can be a one-time option, or you can set up a recurring transaction.

