



LIES

vs.

TRUTH

LIE 5:

You Are Exempt
(That Doesn't
Apply to You)



First Lutheran

CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025 | 9:30 A.M.

FIRST TIME?

Welcome to First Lutheran Church and Preschool! Everything you need for the service is in this bulletin. Feel free to follow along and participate as you feel comfortable.

Restrooms are in located in our education room. Follow the signs as you exit the sanctuary or ask one of our ushers or greeters (they will be wearing name tags).

ABOUT LENT

Lent is a season that lasts 40 days (minus Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Its length reflects the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Lent is a season where we seek to rely more upon God and His Word than upon anything else. It is a season of fasting, prayer, giving, and repentance.

KIDS

The church is for all ages. Your kids are most welcome to stay in the worship service, even when they are making noise. If you feel they need a break, there is an unstaffed nursery available in our education room.

Sunday school (age 3 through high school) meets after worship until about 11:20. Parents are welcome to join Bible study during this time.

Bringing people together, in the midst of a hectic world, for fellowship and rest.

AS WE GATHER

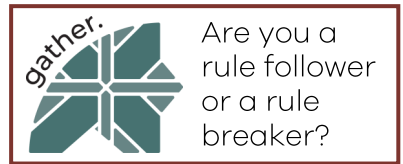
As we gather for worship today, we examine a tricky lie. It's a lie that applies to rules, bad news, and even good news. It's the lie that things don't apply to us. We can use this lie to pretend we are invincible or to persuade ourselves we are beyond God's favor. In either case, it's a lie. The truth is much, much better. God's blessings as you worship with us today.

Office: (925) 671-9942 | office@flcconcord.org | flcconcord.org

PRELUDE

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

OPENING HYMN

LSB #845 Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

- 5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

C: **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)

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.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise 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. Jesus' forgiveness applies to me.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 2

P: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

C: **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,**

P: *"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."*

C: **He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.**

P: Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

C: **"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."**

P: I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

C: **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.**

P: You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

C: **Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

P: Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

C: **Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

KYRIE

C: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. May we always acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S CHAT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 1:1-21

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

(Continued on next page...)



Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 5:1-11

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

C: Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."



So he told them this parable:

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON HYMN

LSB #915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
 2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
 Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
 His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
 What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
 No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
 Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Stand

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

After each petition:

P: ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Pray with us this week. For today's prayers and more, please see the First Notes newsletter.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: 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.**

LITURGY OF GENEROSITY

P: We have a generous God! We give thanks to the Lord for all He has given us.

C: We give back to the Lord with joy and thanksgiving.

P: We wisely steward all of His good gifts.

C: The gifts of our time and energy.

P: The gifts of our talents and skills.

C: The gifts of our relationships and finances.

P: Lord, may each of these gifts you have entrusted to us be used for the good of Your people and to Your glory.

C: We have a generous God. Amen.

Scan the QR code on the right with your phone's camera to access First Lutheran's Giving page:



PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.


C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS




C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My $\cdot\ddagger$ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My $\cdot\ddagger$ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death and resurrection until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Sit

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

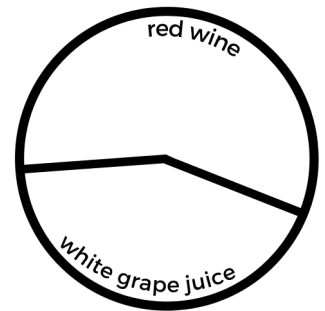
Out of respect for those who cannot consume alcohol, we offer both white grape juice and red wine. The graphic shows how the wine and grape juice are divided in our communion trays.

The ushers will invite you forward for the Lord's Supper. The pastor and communion assistant will offer you the bread, then the wine/grape juice. Once you have received both, place your used individual cup in one of the containers on the communion rail and return to your seat.

If you have not taken communion with us before, please read our communion statement in the back of the bulletin before joining us in this sacrament.

If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask the pastor.

If your health makes it difficult to come forward, we will bring the Lord's Supper to you. Please inform one of the ushers.



This hymn was translated from German into English by Catherine Winkworth. She translated nearly 400 hymns, many of which are in our hymnal today.

COMMUNION HYMN: LSB #420 Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
 That from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
 Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish
 Me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For Thine anguish in the Garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore,
 Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
 For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Stand

BENEDICTION

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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;




Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

POSTLUDE



What do you think God looks like? What do you envision as you pray?

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:

Midweek Lenten Service — 4/9 (12:00 noon & 7:00 pm)

Maundy Thursday Service — Potluck at 6:00 pm; Service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service — 7:00 pm

SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Owens, Judy Bennett

Ushers: Kent Campell and Ralph Vallis

Acolyte: Skylar Rehana

Children's Chat: Pastor Andy

Reader: Amanda Medina

Communion Assistant: Jeff McKenzie

Sound: Jared Theiss

Livestream: Heather Theiss

Counters: Michael and Chyna Grieb

Altar Guild: Diane Enochs, Ida Thomason, Ruth Welles

Accompanist: Natasha Kung

Sunday School: Connie Pfahl and Heather Theiss

OUR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS AND CHURCH STAFF

Natasha Beltran, Alex Drukov, Tammy Dube, Nicole Ford, Silvia Guillen,
Kayla Hackett, Moonyeen Jester, Pastor Andy Jones, Natasha Kung,
Cindy Magos, Nicole Marchion, Mark Meyer, Valarie Ortega,
Ruth Salguera, Jeni Smith, Heather Theiss, Anna Villalpando, Monica Zarate

ABOUT COMMUNION

First Lutheran Church and Preschool celebrates the Lord's Supper every Sunday in the joyful confidence that Christ our Lord gives us not only bread and wine but His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Lord's Supper is intended for Christians who have been baptized, instructed in the faith, and who believe in these words of Christ: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Anyone who is not baptized or does not believe these words should refrain from participating in the Lord's Supper as our participation is a confession of our common faith.

Anyone who has not been instructed in the faith or holds a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desires to receive the Lord's Supper, is asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study, see 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (pages 958-959 in the English pew Bibles). Those not receiving the Lord's Supper (both adults and children) are invited to come forward for a blessing.



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CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL