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**1st Sunday**

**in Lent**

What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by His grace: in sending One from woman’s seed, the One to fill our greatest need—for on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent’s head!

*LSB* 561:3

**AS WE GATHER**

“*X* marks the spot” is a reminder that a cross, whether on a treasure map or on a police investigation site outline, has a special meaning. It indicates what is at the center and is of greatest importance. In the Small Catechism, Dr. Martin Luther directs Christian people to make the sign of the cross to begin their day, as he writes, “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross” (*LSB*, p. 327). He commends the same sacred action at the close of the day, writing, “In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross” (*LSB*, p. 327). The purpose of making the sign of the cross, whether at home or in conjunction with our worship, is to indicate that all our lives are marked by the redeeming action of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for us and for our salvation. It is a most blessed sign!

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 203)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* (*LSB* 656)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 205)

**OLD TESTAMENT** Genesis 3:1-21 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Romans 5:12-19 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 4:1-11 *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 206)

**HYMN** *“Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken”* (*LSB* 521, vs. 1-3)

**SERMON *“Because You Have …”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 208-210)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“The Tree of Life”* (*LSB* 561)

*“Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit”* (*LSB* 746)

**NUNC DIMITTIS** *“Song of Simeon”*(*LSB*, pg. 211)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 212)

### BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 212)

**HYMN** *“Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken”* (*LSB* 521, vs. 4-6)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**