

Oculi – The Third Sunday in Lent

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Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father, **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

Introit

Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord:
for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.
Turn Thee unto me and have mercy upon me:
for I am desolate and afflicted.

Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul:
O my God, I trust in Thee; let me not be ashamed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord:
for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.
Turn Thee unto me and have mercy upon me:
for I am desolate and afflicted.

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray: We beseech Thee, Almighty God : look upon the hearty desires of Thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Thy majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end. **C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 26:1–15

¹In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: ²“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. ³It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. ⁴You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, ⁵and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’” ⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. ⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. ¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1–9

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 123:1–3a

To you I lift up my eyes,

O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,

so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD,

have mercy upon us.

Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.” ²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

☩ 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 men 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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

659 Lord of Our Life

- 1 Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and hope of ev'ry nation:
Hear and receive Your Church's supplication,
Lord God Almighty.

- 2 See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,
O Lord, preserve us.

3 Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;
And in the day when hell itself assails us,
Grant us Your peace, Lord:

4 Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are raging,
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls assuaging,
Peace when the world its endless war is waging,
Peace in your heaven.

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Sermon

Offertory

LSB 192

☩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

[Offering]

Prayer of the Church

Preface

LSB 194

☐ The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

☐ Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them up unto the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

☩ It is meet and right so to do.

☐ It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and

truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

☐ 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 ✠ 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 testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **☩ Amen.**

☐ 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.

Distribution

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed.

Refrain

Refrain Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee.

Refrain

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise.

Refrain

4 Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near.

Refrain

5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally.

Refrain

755 In the Very Midst of Life

- 1 In the very midst of life Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife Lest the foe confound us?
 Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred. Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God! Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish In the bitter pangs of death.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

- 2 In the midst of death's dark vale Pow'rs of hell o'ertake us.
Who will help when they assail, Who secure will make us?
 Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
Thy heart is moved with tenderness,
Pities us in our distress. Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God! Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
Save us from the terror Of the fiery pit of hell.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

- 3 In the midst of utter woe When our sins oppress us,
Where shall we for refuge go, Where for grace to bless us?
 To Thee, Lord Jesus, only!
Thy precious blood was shed to win
Full atonement for our sin. Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God! Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
Lord, preserve and keep us In the peace that faith can give.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need

- 1 When in the hour of deepest need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious thought
No help or counsel yet have brought,

- 2 Then is our comfort this alone
That we may meet before Your throne;
To You, O faithful God, we cry
For rescue in our misery.

- 3 For You have promised, Lord, to heed
Your children's cries in time of need
Through Him whose name alone is great,
Our Savior and our advocate.

- 4 And so we come, O God, today
And all our woes before You lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

- 5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still;
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

- 6 So we with all our hearts each day
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
Then walk obedient to Your Word,
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

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743 - Jesus, Priceless Treasure

- 1 Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask beside Thee.

- 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

- 3 Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him, Silent bow before Him.

- 4 Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me Since He deigns to love me.

- 5 Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me, Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again. Past thy hour,
O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever, Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within. Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

☐ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

☐ 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **☩** Amen.

☐ The Lord be with you. **☩** And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

☐ Bless we the Lord. **☩** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace. **☩** Amen, amen, amen.

823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

1 May God bestow on us His grace, With blessings rich provide us;
And may the brightness of His face To life eternal guide us,
That we His saving health may know, His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the nations show Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.

2 Thine over all shall be the praise And thanks of ev'ry nation;
And all the world with joy shall raise The voice of exultation.
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord, Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.

△3 O let the people praise Thy worth, In all good works increasing;
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth, Thy Word is rich in blessing.
May God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the world praise Him alone, Let solemn awe possess us.
Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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OCULI

Jesus Overcomes the Strong Man – Jesus was accused of speaking and doing evil when he was in fact doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14–28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (Exodus 8:16–24). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man, Satan. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord (Ephesians 5:1–9). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

We need to know that Christ's work of driving out the devil never ceases but continues to go on in the Christian world until the Last Day. For this task Christ left us designated instruments: Holy Baptism, the blessed Sacrament, the Word and Absolution, and whatever else belongs to the ministry of preaching, in order to enable us to destroy the devil's kingdom, to take from him his captives and cast him out of people. The Holy Spirit accompanies the Word, to enlighten, kindle faith, cleanse, and free people from the devil's power and rule.

– Martin Luther

The Meaning of *Oculi*

The Third Sunday in Lent is traditionally known as *Oculi*, which is the first Latin word of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. *Oculi* means "Eyes"

(*Oculi mei semper ad Dominum* = Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord).