

Sunday, March 16th, 2025

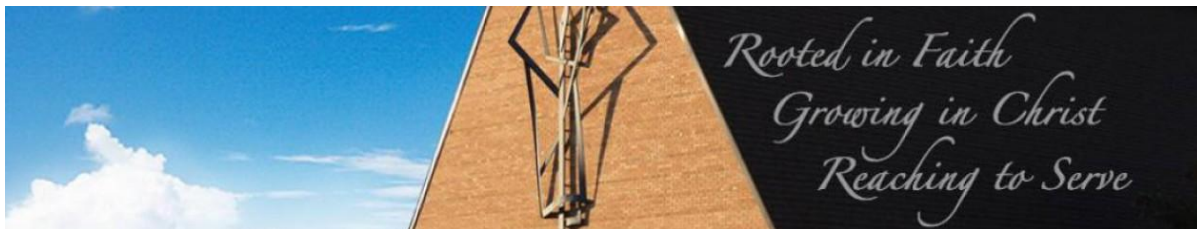
Second Sunday in Lent



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who forgives all our sin,
 whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
 but our lives do not always reflect you
 and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
 you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
 you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
 even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
 and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
 to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

As the Winter Days Grow Longer

ACS 924



- 1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
- 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
- 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
 lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
 quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo-ple, here we gath-er, turn - ing watch-ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo-ple, here we gath-er, seek - ing lives re-freshed from sin.
Wan-d'ring peo-ple, here we gath-er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless-es earth with spring-time, shine with-in our world a - new!
God who bless-es earth with spring-time, bloom with-in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless-es earth with spring-time, grant us sab-bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody
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PRAYER OF THE DAY God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of
my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in
the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰**Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²**Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

¹⁴**Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

VS. 1 *In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me*

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35. The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

WHAT IF GOD WAS ONE OF US? MUSIC JOAN OSBORNE *Released Feb 21, 1995*

[Verse 1]

If God had a name, what would it be?
And would you call it to His face
If you were faced with Him in all His glory?
What would you ask if you had just one question?

[Pre-Chorus]

And yeah, yeah, God is great
Yeah, yeah, God is good

[Chorus]

What if God was one of us
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Tryna make his way home?

[Verse 2]

If God had a face, what would it look like?
And would you want to see
If seeing meant that you would have to believe
In things like heaven and in Jesus and the saints
And all the prophets?

[Pre-Chorus]

And yeah, yeah, God is great
Yeah, yeah, God is good

[Chorus]

What if God was one of us
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Tryna make his way home?

[Bridge]

Just tryna make his way home
Back up to heaven all alone
Nobody callin' on the phone

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. # 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. We begin this time of prayer as we sing *O Lord Hear my Prayer* followed by petitions and the spoken response (*God, in your mercy, receive our prayer*) and we will end our time of prayer by singing *O Lord Hear my Prayer*. Let us pray and sing together:

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

ELW 751

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

SHARING THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING Thank you for your continued financial support of OSLC! Whether you join us in person or online, the ministry & missions of Our Savior's depend on faithful giving. You can give the following ways:

+ online links can be found by accessing our website at <https://www.oslcmn.com/>

+ Using the QR code found here:

+ Contacting the church office to set up regular automatic giving

+ Dropping off or mailing in your offering



OFFERING PRAYER Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us,

opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

pg. 191

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

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. All are welcome.



COMMUNION HYMNS

Come to the Table Build a Longer Table

ELW 481
ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Kristen Weikum

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Aubie (needs kidney transplant), Archer, Sharon, Mary (lung & bone cancer), Diane V. (bad fall w/injuries), Debbie (community, cancer), Leanne, Addy, Sharon P., Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Deb, Cliff, Lorraine M., Eric, Kyle, Pr. Art, Bob D, Mark O., Janet, John W., Joy T., Shannon P., Luddy, Gerilyn, Archer, Jarie, Phyllis, Wally, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Chuck, Sue. ***Call Janet Heglund @ 218-749-6143 for prayer needs- the prayer chain leader January through June.***

If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.

CONTACT US

OSLC, 1111 8th St. South, Virginia, MN Church Office: 218-741-6207

Email: office@oslcmn.com

Online: www.oslcmn.com

www.facebook.com/oslcmn

YouTube Page "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia MN Office"

OFFICE HOURS

Office Admin hours are 9am - 5pm, Tuesday - Friday.

There will be times we're away from the office doing errands, for this reason, please call ahead if you plan on coming to the church or need assistance!

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Liz will be here Tues. - Thurs. & off Fridays.

Call @ 218-780-8907

or email at lizcheney44@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Secretary: Colleen Brown Jacobson

Bookkeeper: Carole Rutka

Custodian: Steve Gagnon

Musicians: Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, and Ginny Ahrlin



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16th, 2025

LENT Lent Soup Suppers & Wednesday Worship dates: **MARCH 12TH, MAR. 19TH, MAR. 26TH, APR. 2ND, APR. 9TH.** Supper is at 5:15, Worship is at 6. The sign-up sheet to bring soup/serve is on the kiosk in the narthex.

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP EXPERIENCE: This year's mid-week worship is intended to center our five senses as a way of exploring the significance of Christ's incarnation throughout our Lenten journey. We all are made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience. God's image in us is beautifully diverse. We'll gather around tables in the fellowship hall & engage in worship as both a large group as well as our small table groups. The experiences will be for all ages. We hope you'll join us!



HELP FOR QUAD CITIES FOOD SHELF The Quad Cities Thrift Store has clothing to donate to our Clothing sale in April. But we have to move the clothing **Mon., March 17 & Tues., Mar. 18th, starting @ 9am** both days. If you can help, please call Gloria Gagnon 218-750-7362. We are also in need of good cardboard boxes if you have any.

WELCA SPRING GATHERING Women, you're invited to the Spring Gathering March 27th at First Lutheran in Hibbing. Registration is 9am, it starts at 9:30am. **Please RSVP** with Barb @ 218-966-6749 **by Thurs., Mar. 20th.**

COUNCIL INSTALLATION Sunday, March 23rd the 2025 Council Installation will take place during worship.

CAMP SUNDAY **March 30th,** VLM Camp Staff will be here to offer a message and update on programming at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion. We will also have a ***Pancake Breakfast after worship*** for our Campership fund to offset the total cost of camp sessions. Wear your camp apparel!

COFFEE SIGN-UP If you want to assist with serving Coffee An' on Sundays, please see the sign-up sheet in the Kitchen - and *thank you* for helping!

CLOTHING SALE We're collecting clothes & gently used household items for our Clothing Sale **April 25th** (8:30am – 2:30pm) & **April 26th** (8:30am – 12pm). Please bring items to the back of the Fellowship Hall and leave them on a table on the left. **Important:** *label your donated items for the "Clothing Sale" or "Community Closet," or leave your donated Community Closet items on a pew by the office instead.* * If you're good at organizing, come help us sort clothes if you're available - **Mondays at noon - Contact Marcia 218-780-6882.**

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP **Thank you, Linda & Lauren Jallen, for sponsoring worship today in honor of your children.** If you're interested in sponsoring a Sunday Worship in honor of someone, or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so any amount you choose from \$25 - \$100. The funds will be used to keep our new sound system and electronic equipment up to date and functioning. **THE SIGN-UP SHEET WILL NOW BE LOCATED ON THE KIOSK**

BACKPACK BUDDY EVENT AT UNITED WAY We're invited to pack children's Backpacks with food alongside Gethsemane Lutheran – they planned the event for **Wed., April 30th from 4pm – 6pm at United Way,** 608 East Dr., Chisolm. **Please call** Bunny at 218-741-4961 to sign up! Thank you for considering this important outreach - over 900 children in our area are at risk of hunger.

THIS WEEK AT OLSC:

- 3/17 6PM BOY SCOUTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 3/18 1PM WELCA BIBLE STUDY, FIRESIDE RM
- 3/19 9AM – 2PM QUILTING, COMMUNITY CLOSET 12-3PM!
- 3/19 LENT SOUP SUPPER 5:15PM, WORSHIP @ 6PM
- 3/21 5:30PM WEDDING PRACTICE
- 3/22 2PM WEDDING

UPCOMING @ OSLC:

- EASTER BREAKFAST** SUN., APR.20, 8AM-9:30AM
- CHORALAIRE'S CONCERT** SUN., APR. 27, 2PM
- SCHOLARSHIP FUND DINNER** MAY 8TH, 5:30-7:30PM

Soup Supper & Lent Worship



*Supper @ 5:15pm
Worship @ 6pm*

- Wed., March 12th
- Wed., March 19th
- Wed., March 26th
- Wed., April 2nd
- Wed., April 9th

First Communion Classes



DATES & TIME - 4-5PM:

- WED. MARCH 26 WED. APRIL 2
- WED. APRIL 9 WED. APRIL 16

THURS. APRIL 17 6:00 PM-

TAKING OUR FIRST COMMUNION IN WORSHIP APR.17

PASTOR LIZ'S CONTACT INFO:

Lizcheney44@gmail.com
218-780-8907



Camp Hiawatha • Camp Vermilion

Camp Sunday is March 30th !

VLM staff will join us with a message and update on programming at Camp Hiawatha & Camp Vermilion. We'll host a **Pancake Breakfast** after Worship to benefit our Campership fund. Wear your Camp apparel if you have any!



Community CLOSET

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111 8TH ST. S. VIRGINIA



WEDNESDAYS
12PM - 3PM

AND 2ND SATURDAY
EVERY MONTH
9AM - 12PM

*clothing for all ages
food pantry items
limited household goods*

COMMUNITY CLOSET PANTRY NEEDS:

Spaghetti sauce, noodles, applesauce, peanut butter & jelly, box cereal, "Complete" Pancake mix & syrup, tuna in the can or pouch, canned soups. Hygiene items: shampoo, body wash



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20th

Join us for a special

Easter Breakfast

starting at 8am

serving until Worship begins at 9:30

Clothing & Household Treasure Sale !



APRIL 25TH 8:30AM-2:30PM
APRIL 26TH 8:30AM - 12PM



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1111 8TH ST S, VIRGINIA, MN