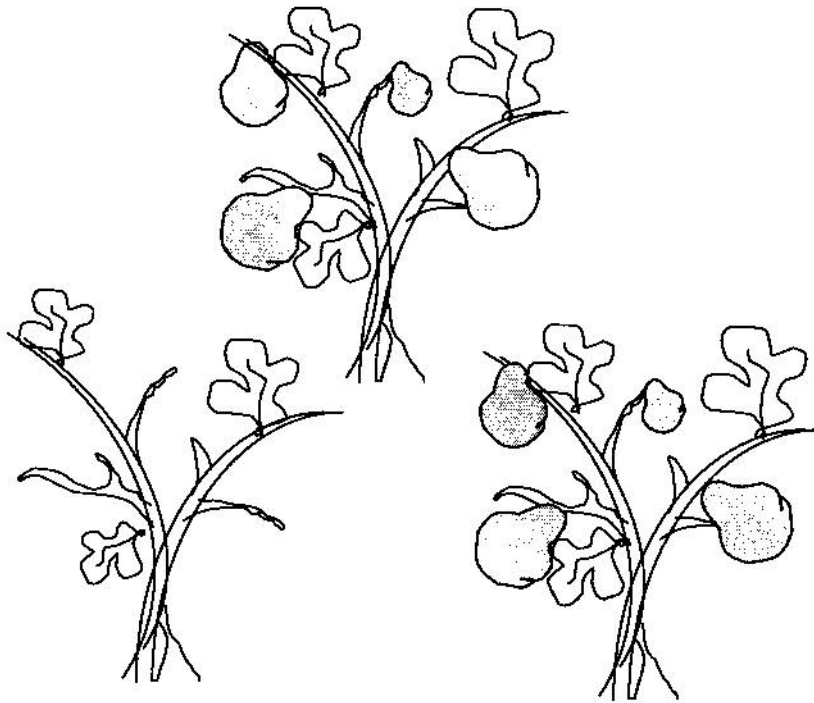


*Saturday, March 6, 2010, 5:30 p.m.*

*Third Sunday in Lent*

*Saturday Evening Liturgy with Holy Communion*

For three years, I have come looking for  
fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none."



"Sir, let it alone for one more year,  
until I dig around it. If it bears fruit  
next year, well and good.

**United Lutheran Mission Statement**

*"United by the grace of God's love, we come together to worship Him,  
to share His word with others and to reach out and care for those in need."*

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday Evening Liturgy with Holy Communion**

Please complete a "Record of Attendance" from the "Welcome Folder"  
found at the ends of each pew, and place in the offering plate  
or give to one of the ushers.

**(P=Pastor, C=Congregation)**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE**

***Asset-based thinking***

Where do you see abundance evident in your life today? Is this abundance something that is earned or freely given? What is the source of this abundance?

In Mark 6:30-44 there is an account of the feeding of the five thousand. A boy provides five loaves and two fish to feed thousands of people. This is a classic story of God's surprising abundance. It is also a story that focuses on the recognition of assets. You are probably familiar with the illustration of the glass filled to the midpoint—is the glass half-full or half-empty? It may be a cliché, but the half-full glass reminds us of all the assets given to us by a God of abundance.

Sometimes we are so convinced that we are little and poor that we almost believe that nonsense. We are not little and poor. We are not without resources. We are not unable to feed five thousand. Jesus did it. We can, too. Sometimes it is simply a matter of asset-based thinking—looking at the abundance (bread and fish) rather than the scarcity.

Sometimes people argue that Jesus didn't miraculously produce loaves and fishes out of thin air, that the people had more food in their pockets or travel bags and shared them when they saw the example of Jesus. Perhaps in some ways this would be even more miraculous than producing the food from thin air—getting people who are convinced they have nothing, to share the abundance they have—now, there's a miracle for you!

How easily do you recognize the assets of abundance when making decisions? What do you do with the assets you see? The example of a boy encourages us to share, and in doing so, we might even be part of a miracle.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Prayer: O God of abundance. Open my eyes to your abundance in my life  
Show me the assets I have and let me willingly share these gifts with others.  
Amen.*

### GATHERING

P We gather together this evening to remember the promise  
God made to us in our baptism . . .  
C **That we've been marked with the sign of the cross and  
belong to Christ forever.**  
P As we journey with Jesus to that cross this Lenten  
season...  
C **We go knowing that, though the way is sometimes  
dark and difficult, in the end we will rejoice together and  
all will be made new.**  
C **We give you thanks, gracious God, for your  
unimaginable love!**

### OPENING PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Let us pray.  
C **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.**

### SONG

*Be"*

*"Chief of Sinners Though I*

*(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal #609)*

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

*13:1-9*

*Luke*

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether  
suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a  
parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will*

*(Continued on next page)*

*be tempered by patience.*

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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>He 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.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**  
*Meyer*

**“Why, Oh Why?”**

*Pastor Myron*

**SONG**  
*Heart”*

**“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My**

*(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal #800)*

### **THE PRAYERS**

P As we journey together toward the cross, let's turn in prayer to God, who is gracious, kind, and overflowing with love.

**[petitions are added]**

Loving God, hear our prayers. You satisfy our every hunger and our every need through Christ Jesus our Lord.

C **Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*(Sung to the melody "O Sacred Head Now Wounded")*

**C Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,  
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.**

*(Spoken)*

**P** During the season of Lent we're called to return to the Lord with all our heart. So then, let's confess our sins, that we might be reconciled with God and those around us.

**C Loving God, you sent Jesus to save the lost. We confess that we've wandered away from you and turned from the way you've shown us. We've failed in loving. We've failed in doing justice. We've ignored your truth and made up our own reality. Have mercy on us, Lord, and wash away our sins. Give us clean hearts again through our savior, Jesus Christ.**

**P** 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

**C Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*(Sung to the melody "O Sacred Head Now Wounded")*

**C O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving and ever-caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness**

**may cease.**

**Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in**

peace.

## **HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*(Intinction)*

As Lutherans, we believe that our Lord is truly present in the bread and wine.

This Sacramental Meal is open to all who are baptized and believe Christ is present.

For our visitors, as a guide, if you commune at your home church, you are welcome to commune with us.

For those who need an alternative to wheat flour wafers, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray

**C** **Loving God, your son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We thank you for the forgiveness and peace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love so that others will know your forgiving grace through us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P** May God who has called you out of the dust of the earth and claimed you in your baptism, strengthen you on your Lenten journey to new life. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** You are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

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