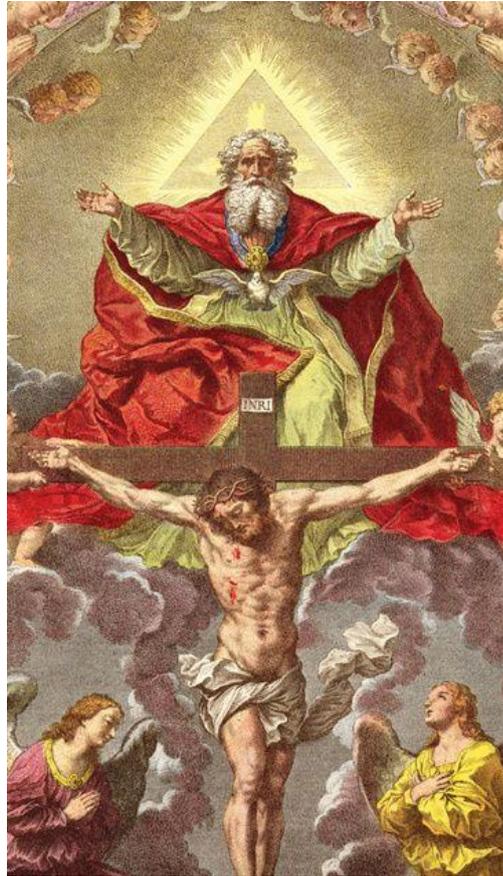


St. Michael's Lutheran Church

English language worship

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic



*“But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons,
then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*

*Propers for
Oculi
March 15, 2020*



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DIVINE SERVICE FOR OCULI, SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

SERMON HYMN - 659 POST-COMMUNION - Nunc Dimittis
CLOSING HYMN - 594

INTROIT (Ps. 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: vs. 15-16)



A: My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
For he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

C: Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
For I am lonely and af- | flicted.

A: To you, | O LORD, *
I lift | up my soul.

C: O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame; *
Let not my enemies exult | over me.

A: The troubles of my heart | are enlarged, *
Bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

C: Consider my affliction and my | trouble, *
And forgive | all your sins.

A: Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me! *
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son ✠ *
and to the Holy | Spir-it;
as it was in the be- | gin-ning,*
is now, and will be forever. | A-men.

A: My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
For he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

C: Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
For I am lonely and af- | flicted.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 8:16-24 (ESV)

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were

gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'"" And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 136:1-16

EPISTLE Reading Ephesians 5:1-9 (ESV)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For 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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

GRADUAL AND TRACT (Ps. 9:19, 3; Tract: ps. 123L1-3a)



A: Arise, O LORD! Let not | man prevail; *

Let the nations be judged be- | fore you!

C: **When my enemies | turn back, ***

They stumble and perish before your | presence.

A: To you I lift | up my eyes,*

O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!

C: **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 up- | on us.

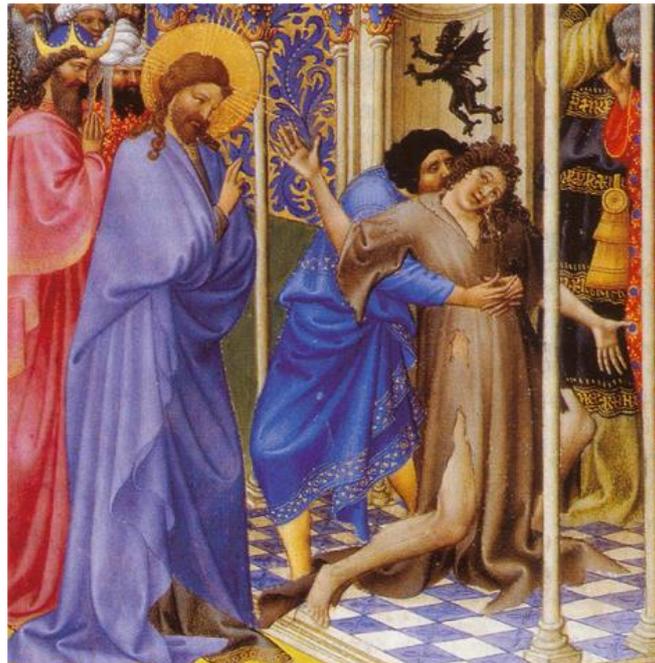
A: Have mercy upon us, | O LORD, *

Have mercy up- | on us.



GOSPEL According to St. Luke 11:14-28 (ESV)

Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 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.' And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then 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." As 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!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"



Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?

“The Passion of the Christ” - We will gather on April 2 in Mathesius Hall for a showing of the movie, “The Passion of the Christ.” Afterwards, we will have a group discussion about the movie’s depiction of God’s greatest act of love. Bring a friend who needs to know Jesus!

Easter Luncheon, April 12, after service - We are planning an Easter meal for our family here at church. Ham will be provided. Please sign up on Sunday for a dessert or a side-dish, we also need some bread.

Greetings to all! Welcome to St. Michael's Lutheran Church, especially our visitors. We hope that you will make St. Michael's your church home. Join us after service for refreshments and conversation in Mathesius Hall immediately following the Divine Service.

An Exhortation Concerning the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar

"The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink" (Small Catechism VI). We believe that proper preparation for partaking of the Lord's Supper is necessary, as the Holy Spirit says through His Apostle: "**Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup**" (I Cor. 11:28). For "he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, 'Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.' But he who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words 'for you' require truly believing hearts" (SC VI). We invite those in agreement with our Lutheran confession of faith to commune. If you have not communed with us before, or have doubts about our Church's teaching and confession, please speak with the pastor before the service. For in this matter it is better to be safe than to risk receiving the sacrament to one's spiritual harm. (cf. I Cor. 11:29). If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar and hold your arms crossed in front of you to indicate that you will not receive communion but desire a baptismal blessing. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Fellowship - Join us after church as we share some food and time together!

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School, Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. - Deacon Damašek is leading the Sunday School in a study of the Exodus and Pastor Kaster is teaching a class on the Book of Isaiah. Sunday School is in Mathesius Hall and the adult class meets at the Theological Faculty building nearby. For directions, just ask!

Fellowship Sign-up - Coming together every Sunday to the fellowship hall is a part of our life together as Christians. Please, see the sign-up sheet in Mathesius Hall to volunteer to bring treats for a Sunday.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Services Are Canceled - In an effort to minimize contact with the coronavirus we will forgo the rest of the Wednesday services. We will plan tentatively to hold Holy (Maundy) Thursday and Good Friday worship. We will update this as they near.

Interested in Membership? Speak with Pastor Kaster about instructions. We would love to have you as members!

Serving Today: Celebrant and Homilist - Pastor Dale Kaster; Lector and Communion Assistant - Martin Damašek; Cantor - Richard Sovitzky; Organist - Michelle Hradecká.

Weekly Maintenance: Annual Budget - Rent, Maintenance, Electricity - 182.400 czk + 156.671 other = 6,505 czk/week needed.

In Our Prayers Today: The ECAV, as it goes through some challenging times; Thomas Huber, father of Sam, who is battling colon cancer; Tony Allen, cousin of Jim Gray, battling prostate cancer; the world and the Czech Republic as we deal with the coronavirus.