

The Crestview Lutheran

Newsletter
March, 2022

Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church



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“When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem.”
Luke 9:51

For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

-M. Luther, SC

From the Pastor

Liturgical Thought

Explanation and Guide to the Lutheran Liturgy¹

The Reason for Incense

Incense is used in Christian Churches for four reasons:

The first and primary biblical reason for the use of incense in worship is to remind us of the sacrificial death and the glorious resurrection of our Lord.

Our Lord is the sacrifice to end all sacrifices. When sacrifices were made in the Old Testament, incense was used. When our Lord died, no incense was burned, but He was wrapped and buried in incense, (we will use Frankincense and Myrrh during penitential seasons, the very same spices given the Infant Lord by the Magi in token of His death to come and in which His body was wrapped for burial). He was anointed with Oxnard (oil mixed with spices and used for burial) by

the woman in Simon the Phari-see’s home. Where we find the Body of Christ, there, we find incense. In our worship, His Body is on the altar in the Holy Sacrament, therefore, incense in worship marks a Sacramental Presence of Christ’s Body in the Service.

So, it is, that the aromatic perfume of incense today reminds us



both that our Lord was sacrificed for our benefit and that He is the Resurrection and the Life. St. Paul picks up on this and applies it to us when he says that we are the aroma of Christ to God. In other words, we are God's incense since we have been raised with

Christ in His resurrection through the waters of Holy Baptism.

Second, as we see in the Bible, that from nearly the very first, incense and worship go together. The holy prophet Isaiah and St. John the apostle and evangelist describe heavenly worship with the angels where the house and throne room of God was filled with [the] smoke of incense; “*And*

*the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was **filled with smoke**,*” (Isaiah 6:4, NKJV); *“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints**,*” (Revelation 5:8, NKJV); *“Then another angel, **having a golden censer**, came and stood at the altar. **He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand**,*” (Revelation 8:3–4, NKJV), (see also, Luther’s description in hymn TLH 249/LSB 960). In the Divine Service our use of incense also reminds us of the prayers of the saints going up to God.

In the Old Testament, use of incense also indicated a special relationship between God and His

people. In the Book of Numbers (Chapter 16) Aaron was commanded by Moses to make atonement for the Israelites to appease God’s wrath after the rebellion of Korah in the desert; *“So Moses said to Aaron, **“Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make***

“. . . as we see in the Bible, that from nearly the very first, incense and worship go together. “

*atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun.” Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. **So he put in the incense and made atonement for the***

people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped,” (Numbers 16:46–48, NKJV). In the same account, we also see God command Moses that incense was to be used only by the priests during worship; *“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, to **pick up the censers out of the blaze, for they are holy,***

Continued on page 4

*and scatter the fire some distance away. The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar. **Because they presented them before the Lord, therefore they are holy; and they shall be a sign to the children of Israel.**' So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned up had presented, and they were hammered out as a covering on the altar, to be a memorial to the children of Israel that **no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron, should come near to offer incense before the Lord, that he might not become like Korah and his companions, just as the Lord had said to him through Moses.**" (Numbers 16:36–40, NKJV) (Psalm 141, Revelation 8).*

The third reason for using incense is to show honor. In the ancient East and West, incense announced the presence of a

god. Since you cannot see God, your nose would remind you of His presence! Adopting this custom, Christian Churches used incense especially at those points where we need to be reminded of our Lord's very real presence: (a) at the reading of the Gospel, (b) in the Sacrament, (c) in the person of the pastor, (d) in the

“... Christian Churches used incense especially at those points where we need to be reminded of our Lord's very real presence. . .”

baptized who dwell in Christ and Christ in them. That is why the Book of the Gospels, the elements and altar, the celebrant, and the people are incensed during the Divine Service. It honors God by reminding us that He is in the midst of us.²

The fourth reason for using incense is beauty which engages the whole person. For not just the mind and heart are consecrated to God's Service, but also the hands, eyes, feet, taste buds, and even the nose! So, just as the beauty of the vestments and flowers capture the eyes and the sounds of the organ delight the ear, the sweet smell of the incense is intended to aid the sens-

es in grasping the greatness of the feast.

After introducing and getting you accustomed to the sweet aroma of incense here at Our Savior, it will be used on particular occasions (i.e., feast and festival days, weddings and funerals when we celebrate Holy Communion as part of the service, the season of Easter, etc.) for all three reasons-beauty, honor, but especially to help us recall that in the Divine Service we celebrate the Service of our Resurrected Lord whose broken Body and

shed Blood causes us to be the aroma of Christ to God.

Pax Christi, Pastor Parent

¹Much of this series on the Liturgy of the Church is found in *Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy*, by Rev. Burnell F. Eckardt Jr., Repristination Press, (Malone, TX.) and first published in *Gottesdienst, The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy*, in a series by the same name between the years 1985-2005. Used by permission.

²You have not yet witnessed this since I wanted to slowly introduce incense to our worship by only burning incense before the service begins.

March Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Wed. 3/9	Ex. 25:20-22	Heb. 4:14-16	Matt. 20:29-34
Sun.. 3/13	Gen. 32:22-32	Rom. 5:1-5	Matt. 15:21-28
Wed.. 3/16	Lev. 16:11-16	Heb. 9:1-10	John 19:31-35
Sun. 3/20	Jer. 23:1-15	Eph. 5:1-9	Luke 11:14-28
Wed. 3/23	Lev. 16:29-34	1 Jn 1:5-7, 2:1-2	Mark 14:22-24
Sun. 3/27	Ex. 16:2-21	Gal. 4:21-31	John 6:1-15
Wed. 3/30	Ps. 118:27-29	Col. 2:13-14	Matt. 27:50-51
Sun. 4/3	Gen. 22:1-14	Heb. 9:11-15	John 8:42-59

*There will be no incense used in March

From the President

In my younger days, I viewed the Lenten season with an eye toward me having to “give something up”. It was like a second opportunity, just for Christians, to rectify a bad New Year’s resolution that was already heading south quickly. It might’ve involved refraining from eating certain foods (or not eating as much food), cleaning up my language (at least temporarily), or making a concerted effort to attend church more frequently. Back then I was part of the “Hallmark theology” crowd...it’s the thought that counts, because I frequently failed in actually carrying out the deeds I wanted to do. So blinded I was, that I failed to even grasp the enormity of my failures; I’m sure now that Satan was quite happy with me. It was only many years later, as a

Lutheran, that I realized Lent is not about what I give up at all, but all about what He gave up for me (His life) and why He had to do it (my sin). In fact, if anyone is still bent on “giving something up” for Lent, then why not cut to the chase, go for the

“...I realized Lent is not about what I give up at all, but all about what He gave up for me (His life) and why He had to do it (my sin).”

whole enchilada and just give up sinning... completely? Yes, that would be exactly what the Law requires. The problem is, of course, that we daily fail at keeping even the simplest parts of the Law, so that’s out! No, better to receive the free Gift that is Christ,

Who has kept the Law perfectly for me. So, rather than having to “give something up”, I’ll instead “receive” Grace by faith in Christ for Lent! Have a blessed Lenten tide!

Blessings,
Alex

“Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.” -Martin Luther

Lenten Services and Supper

Come Wednesday evenings for Soup and Sandwich before Lenten Service.

6:00 Supper

7:00 Service

Coffee with Pastor

Coffee with Pastor

begins with

Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to know him and for him to get to know his flock!

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00

Study of

Psalms

Come join us for a good time of learning and fellowship!

Men's Group

March 15

7:00pm

Pastor Parent's house

All men of the church are invited for a great time of fellowship.

(The Men's group will meet on the 3rd Tuesday night of each month.)

6481 Wallannee Way

Laurel Hill

Birthdays

Rich Urda 3/9

Dianne Shaheen 3/22

Emily Bien 3/31

Save the Date

Friday, April 6th at Our Savior

Tre Ore

A blessed three hours remembering Christ's agony on the Cross.

(stay for the entirety or "come-and-go")

Sunday Mornings

8:00-8:45—Private Confession

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Divine Service

Mark you calendar

Friday, March 11th.

Movie Night is coming to Our Savior.

By request, My Big Fat Greek Wedding is being shown. Movie will start round

6:30pm.

From the Treasurer

God continues to provide for the financial stability of OSELC through the leadership of our Pastor and by the hands and spirit of our generous membership. Although January contributions were somewhat less than the historical trend, the escrow we have built over the past two years enabled us to easily pay all of our obligations.

Just like we are all feeling the pinch of inflation in our personal finances, almost all of OSELC's bills have increased too. As you do at home, please be mindful of our energy and water con-

sumption. Use what you need to accomplish OSELC's ministries; absolutely. But if you see an opportunity to save where we can, please do so.

As always: it is my fervent desire that OSELC's financial operations and situation be as transparent as possible to each and every member. If you have any question, concern, or suggestion about our church finances, please do not hesitate to bring it to me. I will gladly speak with you about it.

God Bless,
Brian

From the Security Board

Reminder!

If you are the last to leave the premises, please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.

Thank you!
Julie Blaylok

From the Board Trustees

It will soon be time to spruce up the buildings and grounds for Easter. We gotten started on the repair of the privacy fence, and felling trees is on the horizon. For those of you who are interested in improving the church's exterior appearance through planting, please contact Jennifer Currid. She has kindly offered to organize such a project.

Does anyone know where

we might be able to acquire some parking blocks? I would like to put some in the parking area in front of the fellowship hall. (I'm going to run an underground rain pipe along the porch, and I want to minimize any vehicle traffic in the area.)

I'll be calling a workday soon. Thank you in advance for all your help.

God Bless,

Brian

From Grace Cafe

Happy March and the start of the season looking forward to our Savior's payment for our sins. I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone that helped pick up the slack on Mondays and Tuesdays while I was on quarantine. May God Bless you all. I'm pleased to say that Grace Cafe is doing very well. We are serving and giving takeout meals to between 35 and 45. We are fixing 11 and 18 boxes for needy families on Monday. We have two ladies that we have been giving a box on Mon-

days that is in need of single bed blankets. They live in a camper with no heat and no electricity. They use propane grill tanks for cooking and heat. If you have some extra blankets they could sure use them. We have had a very nice benefactor that gave us a new roaster and a griddle with a warming tray and a new can opener (electric) to save our poor hands. A big Thank You to you also.

May the Lord Bless you,

Becky

From LWML

Serve the Lord with gladness!

-Psalm 100: 2

Mites for February totaled \$3.59.

Mite Box Sunday is the first Sunday every month.

The LWML Retreat in Foley was wonderful. We had a Bible Study based on the woman at the well led by author Donna Snow. BUNCO for mites raised \$410. Thanks to all who donated to Camp Dixie. In addition to all the wish list items donated they also received \$1,025 from the attendees. I encourage all women of the congregation to try to attend next year. A retreat is an opportunity to withdraw

from normal routine for fellowship with our Lutheran sisters from Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle and also to renew spiritually and physically.

We are adorning our sanctuary for Easter (April 17) with Easter Lillies. If you wish to purchase an Easter Lily to beautify out sanctuary please contact Linda Urda during the Lenten season. Cost is \$10 per plant and you may take the plant home after the Easter Sunday Divine Service.

History of the Easter Lily: (*Lilium Longiflorum*)

White flowers fill homes and churches during Easter. The white flowers symbolize the purity of Christ, who was free from sin. The trumpet shape of the Easter Lily represents a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen. From bulbs that grow underground for three years or longer, process reminiscent of Jesus' brutal death and Holy Resurrection. Lilies represent rebirth and hope, just as the resurrection does in the Christian faith.



They are native to several islands south of Japan. Following WWI, a soldier named Louis Houghton brought a suitcase of Lily bulbs to the U.S. Oregon and

California now produce most of the world's Easter lilies.

The Grumpy Gardener recommends planting them in a sunny spot with well drained soil at the same depth as they were situated while growing in their containers. Then spread several inches of mulch around the base of the flowers. To avoid disease, don't plant Easter Lilies with other lilies. Lilies can be harmful to animals, especially cats but are not known to be harmful to dogs.

Upcoming events:

Gulf States District LWML Convention,

Huntsville, AL April 22-23, 2022. Registration firm is available on the District website.

Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, tentatively Florala, AL.

LWML National Convention, Milwaukee, WI, June 22-25, 2023.

LWML Website: <https://www.lwml.org>

Gulf States District LWML: <https://www.lwmlgulfstates.org>

Linda Urda

LWML president



Prayers of Martin Luther for Lent

For Help to Flee From Sin

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and frighten me. Where shall I go? I look to you, Lord Jesus, and I believe in you. Although my faith is weak, I cling to you and am made sure, for you have promised: whoever believes in me shall have eternal life. Even if my conscience is troubled and my sins frighten me and make me tremble, you have said: "My child, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you. I will raise you up on the Last Day, and you will have eternal life." I cannot help myself by my own strength. I come to you for help. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Benefits in the Sacraments

O my God, I am a sinner, and yet I am not a sinner. Alone and apart from Christ, I am a sinner. But in my Lord Jesus Christ and with him, I am no sinner. I firmly believe that he has destroyed all my sins with his precious blood. The sign of this is that I am baptized, cleansed by God's Word, and declared absolved and freed from all my sins. In the sacrament of the body and blood of my Lord Jesus Christ I have received, as a sure sign of grace, the forgiveness of sins. This he has won and accomplished for me by the shedding of his precious blood. For this I thank him in eternity. Amen.

For Help in Keeping the Commandments

Lord God, I have indeed transgressed your commandments. I have been impatient in reverses and trials. I am unsympathetic and unmerciful. I do not help my neighbor. I am unable to resist sin. I do not tire of doing wrong. Dear Lord, pour out your grace to me and give me your Holy Spirit so that I may be obedient and keep each of your commandments. Help me to be at odds with the world and to give my heart and soul to you. Amen.

Board of Christian Life

For the past few months, the women of Our Savior have been reading Pastor Will Weedon's book titles Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey from Luther's observation, "For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey." We meet once a month after the Women's Bible study led by Deaconess Bien. During this sweet time together, we share our responses to Pastor Weedon's encouragement and direction to cultivate godly habits.

In the introduction, Weedon quotes Luther as the premises of this book:

"This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam and sparkle, but everything is being cleaned."

Over the past few months, we have

explored together the habits of listening to the Word of God, daily prayer, frequent and faithful reception of the Eucharist, confession of sins and absolution, sacrificial giving, confessing Christ, watch for good works God has prepared for us to do, and remembering death and Day of

Judgment. In the chapter

on sacrificial giving, Weedon recalls when Jesus pointed to the widow who put her two small coins in the temple collection plate (Luke 21:1-4). Those around her might think that she gave so little, but

Jesus says she gave more

than all who gave that day, one more reminder to us that God's ways are not our ways. Weedon wonders why Jesus would say that the widow gave more. He explains it this way: "To put it simply, her total giving witnessed to her total faith in the heavenly Father and His ability and desire to take care of her. She was so free because of her total trust in God's provision that she could joyfully contribute everything she

"As we give, let's lift our eyes to the heavenly Father and remember with joy who He is and who we are."

had. She quite literally was giving herself in that gift. The rich gave abundantly, but their giving didn't really cost them that much, and therefore, it didn't give evidence of any great trust in the Father. They still had plenty left over for themselves. They knew where their next

meal was coming from; she didn't – except she knew that her heavenly Father would take care of her.

As we give, let's lift our eyes to the heavenly Father and remember with joy who He is and who we are.

Jennifer Currid

Board of Christian Life

Getting Around OSELC

Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the fellowship hall

Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Directories—on the back counter in the nave (where Service is held)

LWML mite boxes—on the back counter shelf in the nave

Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco

Serve on a board—See that board's chairman (list is on the back of the newsletter)

Make Offerings Electronically—See Brian Hull

Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull

Websites:

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org

Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org



**LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO**

Sacred Music for the World

Keeping a Holy Lent

Part 2

February 4, 2008 / The Magazine / By The LCMS / Leave a Comment

by Dr. Gregory J. Wismar

‘Keeping the Silence’

Another spiritual dynamic of Lent is that it is a time to keep the silence in reflection and devotion.

The language of Lent is purposefully quieted. The word *alleluia* is not used as an expression of praise in Lent. Our vocal and instrumental music is reflective and subdued. Purple, the liturgical color customarily appointed for Lent, is the “quietest” of the colors used throughout the church year and is associated with penitence and sorrow.

In many churches, the crosses, crucifixes, and other religious artwork is “veiled”—covered with a transparent cloth throughout the 40 days to mute their brilliance and to add a solemn tone to the worship space. In some places, families also cover religious paintings and wall hangings in their homes.

Times of silence for personal reflec-

tion and prayer before individual or family devotions have special meaning in Lent. The words of one of the great Lutheran hymns of Lent serve as a call to an extra measure of devotion and prayer: “Jesus, I will ponder now / On Your holy Passion; / With Your Spirit me endow / For such meditation” (LSB 440, LW 109, TLH 140).

“The Gospel account of the suffering and death of Jesus to pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind was told simply and directly as being of the greatest importance, as it still is.”

Today, establishing a proper setting for such reflection in our fast-paced and noisy world may take extra determination. Finding that place and observing that time, however, is another central component of the discipline of the holy season of Lent and is more than worth the effort.

Although much devotional material for the Lenten season exists, one of the best—and readily available—sources of such material is

the corpus of Lenten hymns in Lutheran hymnals. Each hymn contains meaningful sacred lyrics from across the history of Christian poetic expression—ready to be rediscovered and taken to heart again and again, whether as part of keeping the si-

lence or in concert with others.

(Being released later this year is the Concordance to Lutheran Service Book, a valuable reference tool for locating words and phrases in hymns that can further meditation and reflection. Concordances for our previous hymnals already are available for devotional and instructional use. Visit CPH.org for more information about these resources.)

‘Keeping the Focus’

The days and weeks of Lent call us to keep the focus of our lives of faith on Jesus, our Lord, and to learn more of Him and His loving plan of salvation for us. One of the classic hymn stanzas of the Lutheran church portrays that proper focus in this petition to the Lord:

On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

—LSB 422, LW 100, TLH 179

In the early centuries of the Church, the season before Easter was used to teach the faith to people who desired to convert to Christiani-

ty and asked to be baptized. The process of catechesis included a time when the candidates for Baptism were questioned about their understanding of what they had been taught regarding the basics of the faith.

In Latin, this sequence of inquiries was called *scrutinia*, from which our English word “scrutiny” is derived. At certain times during Lent, the greatest treasures of the faith were shared with the candidates for Baptism, including the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. The Gospel account of the suffering and death of Jesus to pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind was told simply and directly as being of the greatest importance, as it still is.

The observance of a holy Lent has a sacred purpose and can be of great benefit. As we keep the fast, keep the silence, and keep the focus of Lent, it becomes a fuller and more meaningful season. The LSB Ash Wednesday order shares an appropriate prayer for all of us:

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.



Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

178 W. North Ave
Crestview, FL 32536

850-682-3154
oselc@oselc.gccoxmail.com



We're on the Web
www.Oselc.net

OSELC Staff, Officers, and Volunteers

Pastor Raymond Parent

Deaconess Heather Bien

Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Council Secretary: Trish Hull

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Jeannie Harrison

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Jennifer Currid

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

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Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Soup Kitchen Director: Becky Williams

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull