AS WE GATHER — Someone’s always watching. At least it seems that way, doesn’t it? In a world full of security cameras and alarm systems, there seem to be millions of ways to keep your property secure and guard your valuables from intruders who would seek to cause trouble. But what are your thoughts about having someone—an actual living, breathing person—to watch over you and your family at all times and in all places? Lest we think that a security detail like that is available only to the rich and the powerful, listen to what the Lord God said to Ezekiel: “Son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 33:7). The entire house of God, which has been watched over by the prophets of old, is now under the authority and care of the Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ. He is your ultimate watchman who guards and protects you from the threats of the evil thief who “comes only to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10). Place yourself under the watchful eye and merciful care of this watchman today! Watch Him, hear Him, and receive Him as He serves you in His Father’s house and fills you with the life that He alone can provide.

PRESERVICE MUSIC “Introit”

WELCOME

[†Means please stand; ††Means please be seated]

††OPENING HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

by Josef van Delft

[Please fill out prayer request cards.]

(continued)

1 Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this
2 We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd
4 I, a sinner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
And from God and heaven wander! Here is hope for
Here our ills have perfect healing. Firmly in these
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh In His arms that
Grant for all my sins remission. Let these words my

all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.
soul receive: Jesus sinners doth receive.

5. Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev’ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

7. Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

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

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS
P Almighty God, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
C You call Your people to turn to You and live.
P Therefore, we turn to You, Father, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.
C Hear us as we come before You in the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Silence for reflection and confession]

P Father, Your voice of truth confronts us in our sin.
C We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
P Your Son stands as the watchman over Your house, calling us to repentance and faith.
C We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
P Your Spirit leads us to acknowledge our rebellion against You so that, confessing our sins, we might receive Your pardon and peace.
C We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that
we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. 🕉️ Amen!

INTROIT
Ps. 5:4–8; antiphon: Ps. 1:6

P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
C but the way of the wicked will perish.
P For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
C evil may not dwell with you.
P The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
C you hate all evildoers.
P You destroy those who speak lies;
C the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
P But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.
P I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.
P Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
C make your way straight before me.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
C but the way of the wicked will perish.

KYRIE
Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev'ry
Your arms extend, O Christ, to save From sting of
O lavish Giver, come to aid The feeble
evil, ev'ry woe; Up-on Your cross-for
death and grasp of grave; Your scars befo the
cild Your grace has made. Now make us grow and

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
P Let us pray.
All: 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 and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
L This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
L This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

VERSE FOR LENT
All: The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

HOLY GOSPEL
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
2 Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
3 Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyes lids close in death,

Let the water and the blood From Thy side which flowed,
Could my zeal no rest - pite know, Could my tears for ev - er flow,
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
SERMON

"HAVE-TOS AND WANT-TOS" Ezekiel 33:7-20
I. There are a lot of things that we have to do in life, rather than things we want to do.
II. God has to preach His Law so that He can do what He wants to do—bring people to forgiveness and salvation.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING / HANDBELL SELECTION

"Two Lenten Hymns"

OFFERTORY

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

1. Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen
2. Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver
3. Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern
4. Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till

and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster,
harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending,

Rich in love and joy and peace.
Patience, kindness, gentleness.
Goodness, faith, and self control.
Heaven's love and joy and peace.


PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for sending Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to bear our sins and be our Savior. Under His watchful eye, we
live as Your children, protected from all danger and guarded in heart and mind. Hear now the prayers we bring before Your throne of grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C watch over us and hear our prayer.
P In Your great love for all who dwell in Your house, You appoint pastors, teachers, and other servants of Your Word who call us to repentance and faith. Grant that as we are confronted with the reality of our sin through the preaching of Your Law, and as we are comforted with the reality of Your forgiveness through the preaching of Your Gospel, we daily turn to You with hearts of worship and obedience. Lord, in Your mercy,

C watch over us and hear our prayer.
P O Lord, Your eye is always on Your creation. Grant that our land be fruitful because of Your faithfulness. Bless all those who labor as You give us strength for the fulfillment of our daily callings. Guide the members of our government and all those who lay down their lives to guard and defend us that we be protected from the threats of our adversaries and give thanks to You for Your constant care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C watch over us and hear our prayer.
P Healer of the broken, work mightily in the lives of all who experience hardships in their health, [including . . .]. Grant that all who ask for healing mercies lift up their eyes to You, the watchman for our bodies and souls, and find peace in knowing that Your face is shining upon them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C watch over us and hear our prayer.
P Into Your loving hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER
P O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C 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.

BENEDICAMUS & Benediction
P Let us bless the Lord, who watches over us.
C Thanks be to God for His never-failing love!
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and *I* give you His peace.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read-y heart and will ing
3 Keep me from say-ing words That lat-er need re-call ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind-ly words and ac tions,
Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing:
What ever You command, My calling here fulfilling;
Guard me lest idle speech May from my lips be falling;
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.

Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless
But when within my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small.

A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.
Then to my words give grace Lest I offend the weak.
And by Your Spirit it's might To live in peace with all.

5. Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

6. And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this early frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Public domain

[Birthdays: Pastor Roger Wohletz]

POSTLUDE

“G Minor Prelude and Fugue” by J. S. Bach

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Renee Ortao, ECC Director / Preschool Teacher.. 303-828-6735 / email: renee@christlutheran-denver.org
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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 AM

March 31: “Life Worth Living”; Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker
Jesus calls us to hate life in this world, not because He wants hateful people. Rather, He wants us to more deeply love true life. (John 12:12-36)