

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

HYMN "Christ, the Life of All the Living" *LSB* 420

1 Christ, the life of all the living,

Christ, the death of death, our foe,

Who, Thyself for me once giving

To the darkest depths of woe:

Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit

I eternal life inherit.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee

Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;

Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,

O Thou sinless Son of God!

Thus didst Thou my soul deliver

From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3 Thou hast borne the smiting only

That my wounds might all be whole;

Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,

Rest to give my weary soul;

Yea, the curse of God enduring,

Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,

Treating Thee with shameful scorn

And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.

All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,

That as Thine Thou mightest own me

And with heav'nly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
 That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
 Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.
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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 3:16*

Pastor: God so loved the world,

People: that He gave His only Son,

Pastor: that whoever believes in Him should not perish

People: but have eternal life.

You are welcome to try one of the practices for confession, which is kneeling. Kneeling has a rich meaning and symbolism in Scripture. It is associated with prayer, humility, devotion, and repentance. The act of kneeling during confession reminds us of this, and it also reflects the season's penitential nature. Whether you kneel, stand, or sit, we are all unworthy to come before our Lord because of our sin, and we thank God for the forgiveness that He has freely given us in Jesus Christ. If you would like to try this practice, we ask that you would gently put the kneeler down at this time and would gently put it back up after Pastor is finished speaking the Absolution and the congregation responds.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ's love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace. Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, and renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. 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.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Pastor: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: 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 inquire in his temple.

People: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

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.

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Numbers 21:4–9* (Moses lifts up the bronze serpent to save the people of Israel.) From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BELL CHOIR “What Wondrous Love Is This” -Raney/Sherman

PSALM *Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19*

Leader: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

People: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

People: and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

People: hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Leader: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

People: He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men!

People: For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

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.

Leader: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:1–10* (We are saved by grace through faith.) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *John 3:16*

Pastor: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

People: that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:14–21* (God so loved the world.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loved the World So That He Gave” *LSB 571*

1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus’ blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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SERMON

APOSTLES' 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 thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS "Holy, Holy, Holy Jesus"

Holy, holy, holy Jesus,

Blessed Lord and King of all.

In Your pow'r and might come free us

From the devil's lies and thrall.

Let our proclamation be

Sweet hosannas unto Thee.

As we journey through Lent's wasteland,

Hold us in Your scarred, yet graced hand.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us.

To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God, for Sinners Given”

Lamb of God, for sinners given,
In Your nail-pierced hands is balm.
Lamb of God, for sinners riven,
In Your cross is peace and calm.
Let this proclamation rise:
“I am baptized into Christ,”
Is my ward and my protection,
And my death and resurrection.

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You are invited to receive the Lord’s Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” *WOV 752*

(We do not have permission to reprint this song. Please use the song book if possible.)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” *WOV 771*

Thomas O. Chisholm and William M. Runyan. ©1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission. CCLI

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Grace Alone” Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson
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1. Ev’ry promise we can make, ev’ry prayer and step of faith;
Ev’ry diff’rence we will make is only by His grace.
Ev’ry mountain we will climb, ev’ry ray of hope we shine;
Ev’ry blessing left behind is only by His grace.

Chorus: Grace alone which God supplies,
Strength unknown He will provide,
Christ in us our Cornerstone;
We will go forth in grace alone.

2. Ev’ry soul we long to reach, ev’ry heart we hope to teach;
Ev’rywhere we share His peace is only by His grace.
Ev’ry loving word we say, ev’ry tear we wipe away;
Ev’ry sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace. *Chorus*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Ephesians 2:10* – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Even the good we do in this world is a gift from God, prepared beforehand for us to do. And this too is a gift! For isn’t doing good also a good thing for the one who does it? So from first to last, from the Lord’s free salvation given to us to the good works He’s prepared for us, everything is a gift of God’s grace.

NATHAN AND SARAH FEDERWITZ are special guests visiting us today. They serve as missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators. The Federwitzes have been training for international missionary service and hope to use this training to support Bible translation. Today they will be sharing about Lutheran Bible Translators work and how aviation plays a key role in Bible translation efforts in many areas. Nathan and Sarah will give a presentation on their ministry in the Social Hall during Bible Study hour at 10:30 a.m. Please note that there will be a Free Will Offering basket in the Social Hall to help the Federwitzes with their expenses. Checks should be made out to Lutheran Bible Translators with the designation “N/S Federwitz Ministry.” They depend upon our support and prayers to carry out their ministry. We welcome the Federwitzes to Emmaus! May the Lord bless their work in His Kingdom.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES: Emmaus will have services on Wednesdays in Lent through March 20 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, March 28-29, services will be held at Emmaus at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

EASTER BREAKFAST POTLUCK: Join us for an Easter breakfast potluck on Sunday, March 31 after the worship service. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex to bring food or help.

EGG CARTONS NEEDED: Keystone Food Shelf has a need for clean empty egg cartons and clean paper bags with handles. Please leave your donation in the Emmaus Food Shelf Box.

HELP NEEDED! We are looking for help with lunch meals after the 11:30 midweek Lenten services. You can help with set up, serving, preparing food or clean-up. A sign-up sheet is posted in the church narthex or contact Marilyn Pierce if you are able to help or have questions. Thanks for your help to make these meals possible.

EMMAUS T-SHIRT: We have one Emmaus T-shirt left, size XL. Contact Marilyn P if you're interested in it.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "The Strangest Request" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe. God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations through the gift of a son named Isaac. But then God asked Abraham to return that gift in a most shocking way. (Genesis 22:1-14)

SUMMER CAMPS AT CONCORDIA ACADEMY: This summer, Concordia Academy offers dozens of camps, including old favorites like Boys and Girls Basketball, CSI, G3 (Genuinely Great Girls), Dance, Playmakers (with two full-day theater camps options), and Youth Worship Team. But there are also exciting new camps, including Adventures in Prose (a creative writing camp), Beacon Archery, and Young Scientists (for Grades 2-4). Get details and register at www.concordiaacademy.com/camps.

EVENING MEALS: To help welcome back Lenten evening services to Emmaus, we are planning on doing a meal at 5:45 before each midweek service, and we would love to have you join us for that. To help this be a success and to help us plan appropriately, we are asking that people RSVP. You are still welcome to come and eat without doing so, but it is greatly appreciated by either signing up in the Narthex or emailing Pastor.

The Kooi family will provide the meal and set it up, but we are looking for just a few volunteers to help with cleanup. If you are able to help with this, please let us know by signing up or emailing Pastor. The menu for each week is posted below and is a free will offering to help defray some of the costs.

Evening Menu

Wednesday, March 13th: Sloppy Joes, salad, and chips

Wednesday, March 20th: Creamy Potato Soup

SERVING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY:

PASTOR: Rev. Nick Kooi

ALTAR GUILD: Donna H

MUSIC LEADER: Pam U

SOUND TECH: Marilyn P

VIDEO TECH: Simeon N

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Gene B

USHERS: Alan M, Christine S

COUNTERS: Jenny H, Gary B

LECTOR: Steve N

GREETER: Renata B

ACOLYTE: Corrin L

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Faye H

THIS WEEK AT EMMAUS:

Today: Nathan and Sarah Federwitz speaking

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

Tues: 10 a.m. Worship Meeting

6 p.m. Spiritual Life Meeting

7 p.m. Council Meeting

Wed: Bulletin Deadline

11:30 a.m. Worship followed by lunch

6:30 p.m. Worship followed by choir rehearsal (meal at 5:45)

Thurs: 1 p.m. Emmaus Quilters (SH)

4-9 p.m. Quilting Queens (SH)

Fri: Office closed – call Pastor in emergencies

Quilting Queens (SH)

Sat: 12-5 p.m. Organist Rehearsal

Quilting Queens (SH)

12-4 p.m. Guys' Game Afternoon (Youth Room)

Next Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study