

WELCOME

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SAT. MARCH 9/SUN. MARCH 10, 2024



“ETERNAL LIFE AND LOVE”

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!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “The Love of God”

**1 The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.
The wand'ring child is reconciled
by God's beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole,
and priceless pardon won.**

Refrain:

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.**

**2 When ancient time shall pass away,
and human thrones and kingdoms fall;
when those who here refuse to pray
on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
grace will resound the whole earth round—
the saints' and angels' song.**

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song**

**3 Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev'ryone a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.**

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song**

Frederick M. Lehman/Claudia Lehman Mays, 1917. Public Domain.

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.

Pastor: Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross
where Jesus gave His life,

**People: and then to the resurrection and eternal
life.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8–9*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-
examination.*

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. 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.

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. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

(LSB, page 186)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.)*

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze^[a] serpent and set it on a pole. And if a

serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:1–10 (We are saved by grace through faith.)*

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² 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— ³ 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. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the

coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

(LSB, page 157)

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

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.

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works 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 blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

**CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’
CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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 so loved the world that He was lifted upon the tree of the cross in order to draw all people to Himself. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

(LSB, page 195)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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

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: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and
teach us to pray:

**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, Pure and Holy”
(*LSB* 434, St. 1)

**Lamb of God, Pure and Holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**✠DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY
COMMUNION✠**

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*

- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol

- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“God Loves Me Dearly” *LSB 392*

**1) God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

**Therefore I’ll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

**2) I was in slavery,
Sin, death and darkness;
God’s love was working
To make me free.**

**Therefore I’ll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

**3) He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free.**

**Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me,**

**4) Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed.**

**Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

**5) Now I will praise You,
O love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long.**

**Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (*LSB 422*)

**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!**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You,
almighty God, that You have refreshed us
through this Meal where we receive Your
genuine love. Keep us firm in faith and
increase our love of You and our neighbors;
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.

CLOSING HYMN “Lord of Glory, You Have
Bought Us” *LSB 851*

**1. Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your life blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With your own unsparing hand.**

**2. Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
‘Tis to give than to receive.**

**3. Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?**

**4. Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your life blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
Liturgist (Sun.) Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus
Sat. Organist: Lina Schaal
Sun. Organist: George Kelm**

Choir Director: Gail Feick

Ensemble Coordinator: Tabra Gomski

**A/V Team: Brian & Amanda Larie, Josh Walton
Stan & Cheryl Grey**

- **VOTERS MEETING:** The next quarterly Voters Meeting will be held next Sunday, March 17, immediately following our worship service.
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- **CAR SHOW MEETING:** Our Annual Car Show will be held on July 13. A planning meeting is scheduled for next Monday, March 18, at 5:30pm. Please attend if you can.
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** Scheduled services will be held in spite of inclement weather. Please use your best judgment to determine if you can safely attend.
- Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald (oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests.
- Please join us Wednesdays for Lenten Supper at 6pm and Lenten Worship at 7pm through March 20.
- **OUR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

March 24	Palm Sunday	9:00am
March 28	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
March 29	Good Friday	7:00pm
March 30	Easter Vigil	9:30am

March 31 **Easter Sunrise Worship** **7:00am**
 Easter Breakfast **8:00am**
 Easter Worship **9:30am**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Reader: **Peter Voigt**
Communion: **Jim Tonkinson**
Acolyte: **Maddie Herrera**
Ushers: **Wayne & Danica Olsen**
Fellowship: **Peggy Tueting**

NEXT WEEK

Reader: **Nadine Kelm**
Communion: **Jim Tonkinson**
Acolyte: **Emma Pferdmenges**
Ushers: **Sarah & James Urban**
Fellowship: **Beth Schneider**

BIRTHDAYS

3/11 **Sarah Urban**
3/12 **Rick Cooke**
3/13 **Tabra Gomski**

Opportunities to Serve the Lord This Week
3/11/24 – 3/17/24

Monday: **6:00pm** **Council Meeting**
Wednesday: **6:00pm** **Lenten Supper**
 7:00pm **Lenten Worship**

Thursday: 6:00pm AA Meeting

Saturday: 9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Women of Hope Meeting

Sunday: 8:15am Choir Rehearsal

9:00am Worship Service

**10:20am Voters Meeting
and Sunday School**

7:00pm AA Meeting