



St. John Lutheran Church,  
Bellville, Texas  
March 14, 2021, 10:30 am  
Lent 4 ~ "A Cross Not Chosen"  
*Holy Communion*

## GATHERING ~ WE PREPARE AND PRAISE

PRELUDE

BELL

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

**\* GATHERING SONG**                      **“Rescue Story”**

Verse 1

**There I was empty handed  
Crying out from the pit of my despair  
There you were in the shadows  
Holding out Your hand You met me there**

Pre-Chorus

**And now where would I be without You  
Where would I be Jesus**

Chorus

**You were the voice in the desert  
Calling me out in the dead of night  
Fighting my battles for me  
You are my rescue story  
Lifted me up from the ashes  
You carried my soul from death to life  
Bringing me from glory to glory  
You are my rescue story**

Tag

**You are You are  
You are my rescue story  
You are You are**

Verse 2

**You were writing the pages  
Before I had a name  
Before I needed grace oh  
Singing songs of redemption  
'Cause every time I ran away  
You were louder than my shame**

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge

**You never gave up on me  
You never gave up on me  
You are my testimony oh  
(REPEAT)**

Chorus

Ending

**You are You are  
Oh You never gave up on me  
Never gave up on me  
You are You are  
Yeah You are my rescue story**

CCLI Song # 7133142 Andrew Ripp | Ethan Hulse | Jonathan Smith | Zach Williams © 2019 Anthems of Hope (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Cashagamble Jet Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) EGH Music Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Songs By Fishbone (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Wisteria Drive (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
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\* OPENING PRAYER

## WORD ~ WE HEAR FROM GOD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 40: 27-31

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

L The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

### THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

<sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

L The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### \* THE GOSPEL

Mark 15: 16-25

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. <sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON "A Cross Not Chosen" (*a moment of silence follows....*)

\* SONG OF THE DAY "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone")

Verse 1

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see**

Verse 2

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed**

Chorus

**My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace**

Verse 3

**The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures**

Chorus

Verse 4

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine**

CCLI Song # 4768151 Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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\* APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Intercessory response:*

P Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

## MEAL~WE COMMUNE TOGETHER

### OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC

“Fear Is A Liar”

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### \* OFFERTORY

“Come to the Table”

**Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

### \* COMMUNION PRAYER

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

DISTRIBUTION *Continuous. Please maintain two rows between families.*

***Holy Communion** is also known as the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. The bread of this special meal is identified by Jesus as his body, given to reunite us with God. The cup (with wine or grape juice) he identifies as his blood, shed for our forgiveness, to give God's grace and life. As a sacrament (sacred act) of the Christian Church, it is open to, and to be received by, all Christians who desire God's assurance and the strengthening of their faith.*

### COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Heart of Worship”

## SENDING~WE LEAVE TO SERVE

**\* BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you + that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

**\* SENDING SONG**

“Revelation Song”

**Verse 1**

**Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain  
Holy holy is He  
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat**

**Chorus**

**Holy holy holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings  
You are my ev'rything  
And I will adore You**

**Verse 2**

**Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder  
Blessing and honor strength and glory  
And power be to You the only wise King**

**Chorus**

**Verse 3**

**Filled with wonder awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name  
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water  
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah**

**Chorus**

CCLI Song # 4447960

Jennie Lee Riddle

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**\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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