

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

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!

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "My Son Is Love Unknown"

{LSB 430 - 7 verses}

My song is love unknown,
Love to the loveless shown
Oh, who am I
My Lord should take

My Savior's love to me,
That they might lovely be.
That for my sake
Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne
But men made strange, and none
But, oh, my friend,
Who at my need

Salvation to bestow;
The longed-for Christ would know.
My friend indeed,
His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way
Resounding all the day
Then "Crucify!"
And for His death

And His sweet praises sing;
Hosannas to their King.
Is all their breath,
They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
He made the lame to run,
Sweet injuries!
Themselves displease

What makes this rage and spite?
He gave the blind their sight.
Yet they at these
And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have
A murderer they save,
Yet cheerful He
That He His foes

My dear Lord made away;
The Prince of Life they slay.
To suff'ring goes
From thence might free.

In life no house, no home
In death no friendly tomb
What may I say?
But mine the tomb

My Lord on earth might have;
But what a stranger gave.
Heav'n was His home
Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
Never was love, dear King,
This is my friend,
I all my days

No story so divine!
Never was grief like Thine.
In whose sweet praise
Could gladly spend!

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

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

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. *Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: 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, 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. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT

Antiphon, Psalm 27:14; Psalm 27: 4-5, 6b

Pastor: Wait for the Lord;

People: be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Pastor: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

People: to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Pastor: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling

People: he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Pastor: At his tabernacle will I sacrifice which shouts of joy;

People: I will sing and make music to the Lord.

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: Wait for the Lord;

People: be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,
People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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.** *(please be seated)*

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 serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

(We are saved by grace through faith.)

1 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

(God so loved the world.)

(please stand)

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.

THE 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. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “God Loved the World So That He Gave” *{LSB 571 – 6 verses}*

God loved the world so that He gave That all who would in Him believe	His only Son the lost to save, Should everlasting life receive.
Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, All then who trust in Him alone	Who was made flesh and suffered death; Are built on this chief cornerstone.
God would not have the sinner die; His Spirit in the Word declares	His Son with saving grace is nigh; How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.
Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son And, justified by Jesus’ blood,	Forgives all sins which you have done; Your Baptism grants the highest good.
If you are sick, if death is near, Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; <i>(please stand)</i>	This truth your troubled heart can cheer: That is the firmest ground of faith.
Glory to God the Father, Son, To You, O blessed Trinity,	And Holy Spirit, Three in One! Be praise now and eternally!

MESSAGE: “The Mount of Sacrifice”

John 3:14-21

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

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.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the

confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Jesus Loves Me”

{LSB 588 – 2 verses}

Jesus loves me! This I know,
Little ones to Him belong;

For the Bible tells me so.
They are weak, but He is strong. **Refrain**

Refrain: *Yes, Jesus loves me!*
Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
He has washed away my sin,

Heaven’s gates to open wide.
Lets His little child come in. **Refrain!**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

Gracie Funk requests prayers for daughter **Elaine Funk**

Prayers for **Kim Pfaff** recovering from quadruple heart bypass surgery

Prayers for **Maurine Maloy** for healing and heart stabilization following pacemaker implant

Karen Brosien requests prayers for her Father, **Carl Landinger**, hospitalized with pneumonia & cancerous tumor, for daughter **Amelia's** healing following knee surgery, and prayers for brothers in Northeast Texas.

Prayers for **Chris Carter** & wife Penny as he undergoes chemo and radiation.

Prayers for **Karla Marchell** recovering from surgery & husband **Kirk** caring for her

Prayers for **Sue Knott** recovering from knee replacement & **Rory** as he cares for her

Prayers from **Joyce Meier** awaiting results from heart tests.

David & Sue Theis request prayers for **granddaughter – Elizabeth Tobaben**

Prayers for **John Soper** going through wound healing outpatient process

Mike Gissi requests prayers for the family of **Dorothy Hoy** as they mourn her passing

Prayers for **Gloria Bloecher** & her **medical team** as she remains in their care

Laura Sanders requests continued prayers for her Father, **Jack**

Debra Beard requests prayers for her Brother, **Tod Dunlevy** in Wisconsin, as he recovers.

Prayers for **Gus Addington** for continued healing following reconstructive surgery

Prayers for **Jim Minica** recovering from strokes

Evonn Hughes requests prayers for **Elaine Long** in hospice care

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, fighting cancer

Parker's and Theis' request prayer for **Robert Patterson** undergoing cancer treatment

Kathy Giardinelli requests prayers for the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** and especially the **Wolf Family** as they begin training to serve the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Prayers for **Mark Giardinelli** who will be going to Ysleta El Paso Lutheran Mission in June

Prayers for Justice & Peace around the world

For family discord, reconciliation, & healing; for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for those with physical & emotional needs & those who are lost may they find Jesus

**Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar 3rd – Vonda Petmecky – in memory of Fred's birthday

Mar 10th – Linda Dicke – Thanking God for His many blessings

Mar 17th – Marilyn Mazurek – celebrating Ernie's birthday

Mar 24th – Rolf & Linda Schulz – celebrating 60th wedding anniversary

Mar 31st – Joe & Verna Sorensen – Thanking God for His many blessings

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - *Pastor will continue with The Gospel According to John.*

Today's Afternoon Bible Study – *Join us as we discuss David Jeremiah's Book "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" along with Robert Jeffress's Book "A Place Called Heaven". Hope to see you there!*

Still waiting – *we are told it will be soon . . . but we are still waiting for the final bids for the repairs / reconstruction on the 2nd floor of the Church Building. In the meantime – **Praise the Lord!** – we are back in the Sanctuary for Worship as of Feb. 21st!*

Palm Sunday - *Children's Church with Eve and Mario Betancourt, followed by a Palm Processional. After service there will be a Multigenerational Easter Celebration with pizza, cookie decorating, a bunny petting station, a craft and an Easter Egg Hunt. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex to help or participate.*

Issues, Etc. - *Your Comprehensive Source For News, Information & Truth . . . Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: **The Promises of God, Embryo Adoption, Making Parenting Easier, The Book of Mormon and more.** You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod or your favorite podcast provider.*

Upcoming Events –

March 12th - Tuesday Prayer Breakfast & Bible Study at Reyna's at 8:30 am (every Tuesday)

Mar 13th & 20th - Lent Services at 6:30 pm

Mar. 7th - Ladies Time Out Lunch at Rivulet at 11:00 am

Mar. 9th - Adult Game Day in the Family Life Center at 2:00 pm

Mar. 16th - Mission Aviation Fellowship - Texas Event in Granbury, Tx

Mar. 23rd – Spring Supper for ALL on the patio in San Antonio just past Top Golf at 5:00 pm

Mar. 24th - Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am followed by Easter Egg Hunt

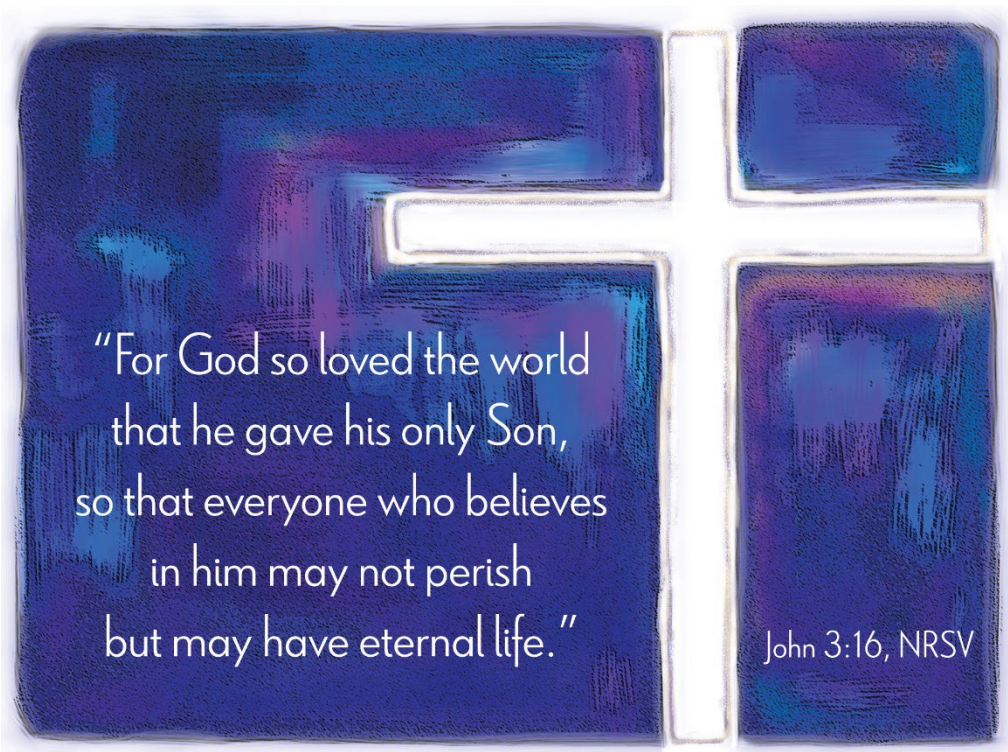
Mar. 28th - Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm

Mar. 29th - Good Friday at 6:30 pm

Mar. 31st - Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at 7:30 am

Mar. 31st – Easter Sunday – Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am

Mar. 31st – Easter Sunday - Festival Service at 10:30 am



"For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes
in him may not perish
but may have eternal life."

John 3:16, NRSV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



THE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

Serving us Today – March 10, 2024

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Coffee:	Vonda Petmecky
Breakfast:	Vonda Petmecky
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader:	Maurice Doublet
Ushers:	Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek – Pam Fields – Maurice Doublet
Greeter:	Kathy Giardinelli

Serving us Wednesday – March 13, 2024

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Lenten Meal:	Artie & Diana Dolt
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Tony Giardinelli
Reader:	Kathy Rottman
Ushers:	OPEN
Greeter:	Lindy Eschenko

**Our Response to God Wednesday
Worship Attendance: 35**

February 2024 Contributions			
General Fund	\$53,967.30	Building Fund	\$1,045.00
Renovation Fund	\$0.00	FLC Rental	\$5,225.00