



Christ Lutheran Church – St. Catharines, Ontario

The 4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
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Bulletin by email: chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

COVER ART: The Prophecy Cross or Wilderness cross depicts Moses' brazen serpent as spoken of by our Lord Jesus. The cross part is often called a T or Tau cross (Greek letter appears like a Latin or English letter T) representing prophecy of our Lord's death. Often symbolized in medicine, the healing received by those who looked upon the cross still keeps medical intervention a healing art.

Prayer: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning, and though we have in no way deserved Your goodness, You still abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, 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. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: John 6: 22-29 Wed.: Mark12: 28-34 Friday: John 12: 20-26
Tuesday: 1 Kings 19: 1-8 Thurs: John 6: 47-59 Saturday: John 8: 21-30

Musicians: Mayumi Munoz
Reader: Noel Richard
Greeter: Ralph and Mary Muller

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. – Sunday School, Confirmand/Youth, Coffee Hour
10:00 a.m. – Worship - The Fourth Sunday in Lent with Communion
Monday: 10:00 -11:00 a.m. – NO Luther Manor Bible Study
7:30 p.m. – Choir
Tuesday: 9:30 -11:00 a.m. – NO Precious Moments
7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. – Lenten Study
Thursday: 10:00 -11:30 a.m. – NO SOUL
7:15 p.m. – Band Practice
Friday (March 15th): 5:00 p.m. – Fellowship Event - Fish Fry at Royal Canadian Legion



YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!

Hope to see you downstairs *for*

COFFEE, TEA & TREATS !

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(during Sunday School & CHAT)

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:

MARCH 2024 Worship Schedule



March 3 – Lent 3 – Baptismal Remembrance Service
March 10 – Lent 4 – LSB Setting 1 Holy Communion
March 17 – Lent 5 – Scripture & Song Worship [Praise Band]
March 24 – Palm Sunday – LSB Setting 3 with Palms & Communion
March 28 – 7 PM Maundy Thurs Communion & Stripping of the altar
March 29 – 10 AM Good Friday Stations of the Cross
March 29 – 7 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness
March 31 – Festive Easter Holy Communion

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today in Sunday School we learn about Zacchaeus, a tax collector anxiously awaiting the arrival of Jesus. Zacchaeus, being a short stature, climbs a tree to see the Saviour. Despite criticism, Jesus invites himself to dinner. Motivated by Christ's compassion, Zacchaeus confesses his sin and promises to make restitution.

Our Bible Verse: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

CONFIRMAND & YOUTH CHAT: March 10 and 24 with youth leader Dan Figueroa. In the youth room from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Hope to see you there!!

FISH FRY: The Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to a "Fish Fry" on Friday, March 15th at the Royal Canadian Legion (15 George Street). We will meet at 5 p.m. in the parking lot. Cost: \$12 for one piece and \$16 for 2 pieces of fish. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS:

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.: Cooking Demonstration.

"How to make Phyllo Pastry Hor d'Oeuvres" by Derrick Smith.

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.: Mission Service night –
Quilt Tying and cutting stamps.

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.: Speaker / TBA.

Tuesday, June 18, 5:30 pm: Summer Pot Luck. More details to follow!



CONCORDIA ROCKS BONSPIEL: Calling all curlers (and the curling curious)! Register for the first ever **Concordia Rocks Bonspiel** on **Saturday, March 23, 2024** at the **Williamsford Community Center** (close to Owen Sound, ON). 2 games, 2 draws, lunch, refreshments, prizes, and a whole pile of fun. Draw 1 @ 8:30 and Draw 2 @ 10:00. All proceeds go to the Student Aid Fund of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. Registration \$50.00. Limited to the first 32 curlers. For more info visit: www.concordia-seminary.ca. To pre-register, email Carol at carollc1952@gmail.com or text 226-668-4353.



EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 31st at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us in the Church basement.

Breakfast includes:
pancakes, sausages, hot
cross buns, coffee and
orange juice.



free-will offering collected to enable the Fellowship Committee to cover costs

As it is the custom for the men of the congregation to do the cooking and serving, we are once again asking the gentlemen to sign up on forms located in the Narthex

CLTS CALL SERVICE: Saturday, May 25, 3:00 pm here at Christ. Followed by a reception.

12th Regular Convention of Lutheran Women’s Missionary League–Canada: July 11-14, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, ON.

The convention theme is based on Psalm 149:1 ‘Sing to the Lord a new song’

Keynote Speaker will be Deb Burma who is a Christian author and LWML seminar leader. Special Interest Speakers will also tell of their cross-cultural ministry with the use of singing and music. The mites gathered throughout the past three years provided such great blessings to people around the world, from local support for a Bethlehem Walk in BC to International support of deaconesses in Nicaragua and Cambodia. Rev. Mark Smith will bring news of the work that is happening through those missions. Mission Grants for the next triennium will be voted on.

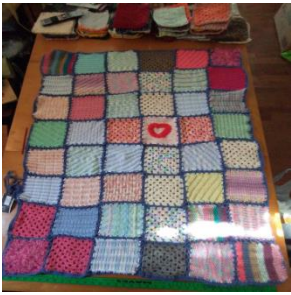
If you would be interested in attending, either in person or online, speak to Lorraine Kaija. Registration forms will be available in the coming months. You can also check out the LWML web site lutheranwomen.ca

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>		10 a.m. – 106	Wed. March 6 -- 20	SOUL: 39	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	2,702.35	37,395.83	(15,202.07)
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	403.00	3,694.50	665.65
Property Improvement:			129.00	1,330.50	

2023 ANNUAL REPORT: The Church Council would like to distribute an Annual Report this year. If you are in charge of a committee, group or event, please send your report for 2023 (in MS Word format) to: secretary@christlutheransc.ca

EASTER LILIES: If you would like to purchase a lily for Easter, please sign your name at the back of the church and you can take it home after the service on March 31st. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please add if in memory of someone or someone you are thankful for and we will add it to the Easter Sunday bulletin.

USED STAMPS: Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.



Granny Squares still needed: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (23 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise

God! If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

HOLY COMMUNION
 LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK SETTING ONE
 THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
 March 10, 2024 + 10 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN: *"Grace Has a Thrilling Sound"*

1 Grace has a thrill - ing sound To each be - liev - er's ear; That
 2 Grace first in - scribed my name In God's e - ter - nal book, And
 3 Grace taught my soul to pray And made my eyes o'er - flow; His
 peace with God through Christ is found Is news I glad - ly hear. Grace
 grace has brought me to the Lamb, Who all my sor - rows took. Grace
 grace has kept me to this day And will not let me go. Grace
 first de - vised the way To save our fal - len race; The
 led my wan - d'ring feet To tread the heav'n - ly road, And
 all our work shall crown Through ev - er - last - ing days; The
 Fa - ther sent His on - ly Son Who came to take our place.
 grace sup - plies each hour I meet While press - ing on to God.
 heav'n - ly home God gives His own Shall ech - o with our praise.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51; Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-78, alt.
 Tune and Setting: F. L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

TERRA BEATA
 SM D

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

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

[Brief silence for reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

Most merciful God, 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 neighbours 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 of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD HAVE MERCY

O Lord, **Have mercy on us;**

O Christ, **Have mercy on us.**

O Lord, have mercy on us and give us Your peace. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Merciful God and Father, we thank You for sending Your Son to suffer death on a cross and give his life as an offering for all people. Teach us, who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, to forget ourselves and die to sin so that we may truly rely on Christ as our Saviour and Lord. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament *Numbers 21:4-9*

The Israelites left Mount Hor and went on the road toward the Gulf of Aqaba. They did this to go around the country of Edom. But the people became impatient on the way. They grumbled at God and Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? We will die in this desert! There is no bread! There is no water! And we hate this terrible food!" So the Lord sent them poisonous snakes. They bit the people, and many of the Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we grumbled at you and the Lord. Pray that the Lord will take away these snakes." So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, "Make a bronze snake. And put it on a pole. If anyone is bitten, they should look at it. Then they will live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake. And he put it on a pole. Then when a snake bit anyone, they looked at the bronze snake and lived.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Ephesians 2: 1-10*

[St. Paul writes:] You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through 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 ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“God’s Gift Of Grace”*

God, who was rich in mercy and love beyond compare, saved us by grace.

We, who were dead in sin and lost in our despair, God saved by grace.

It is by grace that we are pardoned. By grace we are set free

To live the lives for which God made us, to find our destiny.

We, who are undeserving of all that God has done, we know God’s grace.

We have been made alive with Jesus Christ, the Son,

God’s gift of grace, God’s gen’rous gift of grace.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see,— Now I see!

Raise your voice and sing to Christ, the Son, God’s gift of grace.

For our salvation He has won. Amazing grace!

It is by grace that we are pardoned and raised with Christ above.

By grace we are receivers of God’s immeasurable love (of God’s immeasurable love)

God’s gen’rous gift (God’s gift of grace).

OneLicense Song # 86979 -- Words by Susan Dengler Music by Lee Dengler Lee Dengler -- Copyright© 2008, Harold Flammer Music, A Division of Shawnee Press All Rights Reserved One License # A-741085 All rights reserved.

SUNG LENTEN GOSPEL VERSE

LSB tune # 157

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel: *St. John 3:14-21*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 3rd chapter:



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus says:] And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG:

"For God So Loved"

F. Townsend © 1987

Frances Townsend

Alfred B Smith

The image shows a musical score for the song "For God So Loved". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "For God so loved the world he gave his on-ly Son, to die on Cal-v'ry's tree, From sin #to set me free, Some day he's com-ing back, what glo - ry that will be! Won - der-ful His love for me". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

He came unto his own; His own received him not
But all who do believe, have power to receive
So all, re-born of God -- by trusting in his name!
I'm so glad that Jesus came.

Since God so loved the world then we can love them too
And as we live for Him; all sad of heart to win
So they'll be bless-ed when Christ comes to earth again
Glor'ious His return will be.

<https://gospelchoruses.wordpress.com/2014/12/29/for-god-so-loved-the-world/>

MESSAGE:

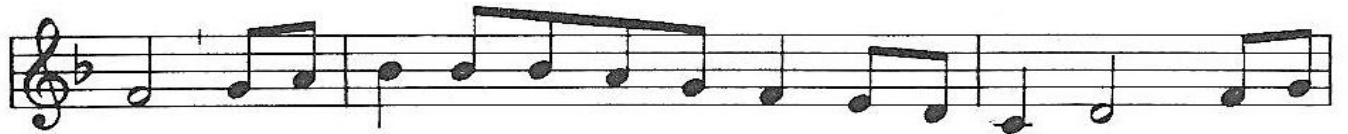
Seminarian Noel Richards John 3:16-18

OFFERING SONG

"What Shall I Render?"



© What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Lord God, You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our global partner churches, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and all the persecuted for faithfulness to You.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Please give relief and hope to [names added here].

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our social ministries of helping and care-giving. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long or difficult.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

LSB Page 161

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....*

WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the

forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD

LSB tune # 163

☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

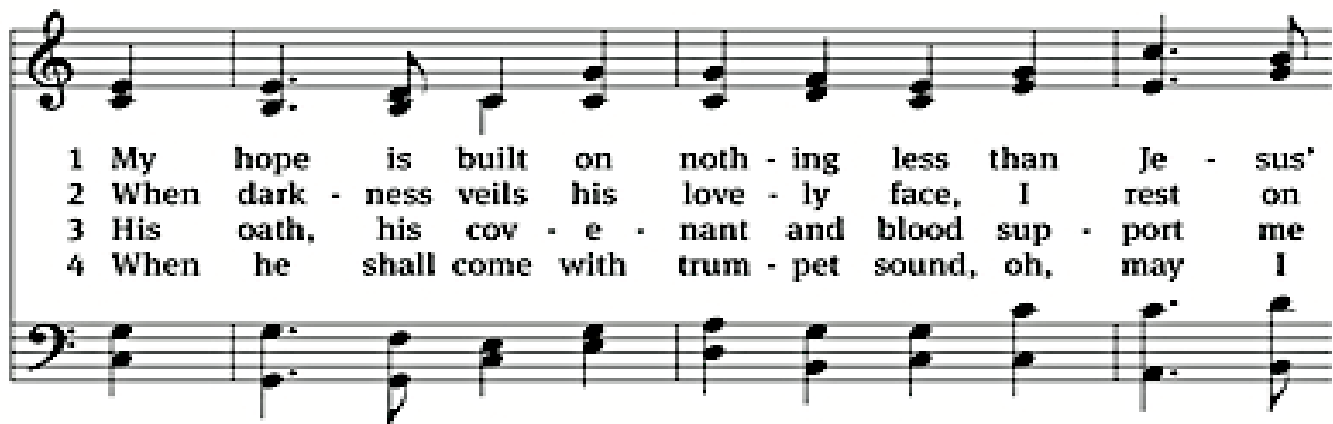
For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult.

The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available.

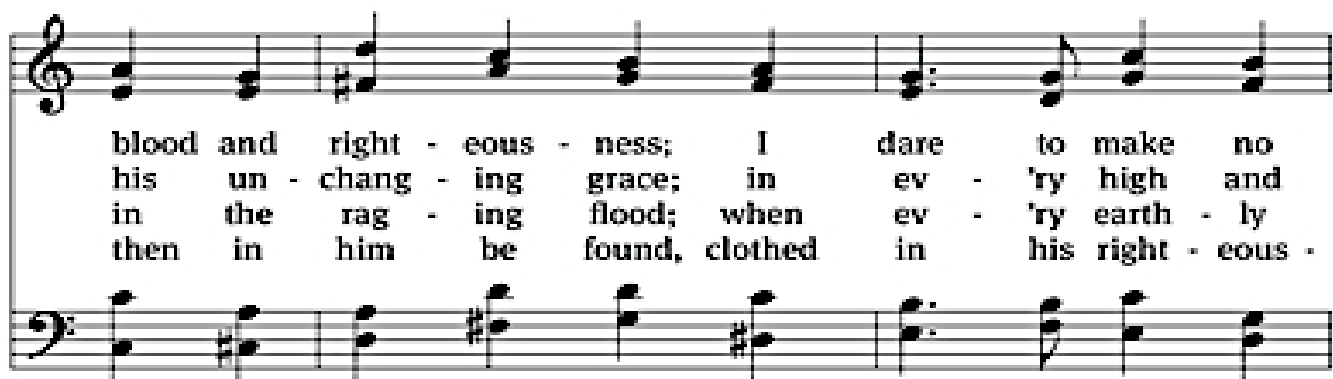
Gluten free wafers are also available.

Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre of the trays

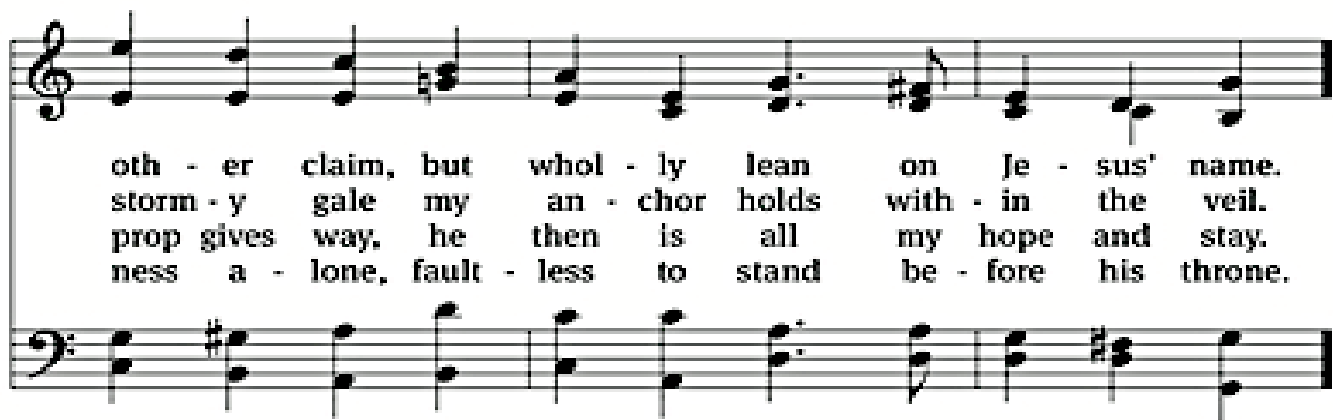
COMMUNION HYMNS: "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
 his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.
 Music: John Stainer, 1840-1901, alt.
 Text and music: public domain

MAGDALEN
 88 88 88

Mt 20:28; Ac 4:10; Ro 9:26; Heb 1:10-12; 1Pe 6:1-3

“God Loved The World So That”

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.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.

If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.

All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

August Crull, 1778, public domain; St. Crispin Melody

“There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood”

V. Cowper, 1731-1800, *abr.*

HORSLEY
W. Horsley, 1774-1858

1. There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn
2. The dying thief rejoiced to see That
3. Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood Shall
4. E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy

from Im - man - uel's veins, And sin - ners plunged be -
foun - tain in his day; And there have I, as
nev - er lose its pow'r Till all the ran - somed
flow - ing wounds sup - ply, Re - deem - ing love has

neath that flood Lose all their guilt - y stains.
vile as he, Washed all my sins a - way.
Church of God Be saved to sin no more.
been my theme And shall be till I die.

"What Wondrous Love"



1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;



What won - drous love is this, O my soul?
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;



What won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be,



To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul;
While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on!



To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?
While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: Alexander Means, 1801-1853

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE, 12 9 12 12 9; *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. from *Cantate Domino*, 1980, © 1980, World Council of Churches

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/GC1994/page/912>

"His Mercy Is More"

1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done; Om - ni - scient, all kno - wing, He
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam; What Fa - ther, so ten - der, is
3. What rich - es of kind - ness He la - vished on us; His blood was the pay - ment, His

counts not their sum. Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore; _____
call - ing us home. He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor; _____ } Our
life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver af - ford; _____

sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord! _____

His mer - cy is more. _____ Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev' - ry morn; Our

sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics, with a closing bracket for the first two lines. The third system concludes the lyrics with 'Praise the Lord!'. The fourth system begins with 'His mer - cy is more.' and continues with 'Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev' - ry morn; Our'. The fifth system concludes with 'sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing harmonic support for the vocal melody.

POST COMMUNION HYMN:

"Lord, Now You Let Your Servant" LSB Page 164



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

LAST HYMN:

“Lord Of All Hopefulness”

www. Hymnary.org



1 Lord of all hope-ful-ness, Lord of all joy, Whose
 2 Lord of all ea-ger-ness, Lord of all faith, Whose
 3 Lord of all kind-li-ness, Lord of all grace, Your
 4 Lord of all gen-tle-ness, Lord of all calm, Whose



trust, ev-er child-like, no cares could de-stroy: Be
 strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be
 hands swift to wel-come, your arms to em-brace: Be
 voice is con-tent-ment, whose pres-ence is balm: Be



there at our wak-ing, and give us, we pray, Your
 there at our la-bors, and give us, we pray, Your
 there at our hom-ing, and give us, we pray, Your
 there at our sleep-ing, and give us, we pray, Your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

©Text: Jan Struther, 1901-53
 Tune: Slane, Irish folk tune

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SEMINARY STUDENT REV NOEL RICHARDS [deliverer]
LENT 3
John 3:14-18
March 10, 2024

Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen!!

What is my status?

I am an active Christian (in the social media terms) and being a Christian means, according to culture, has changed over the years. Many people think that going to church occasionally or simply believing in God makes them a Christian. A Christian is someone whose behavior and heart reflects Jesus Christ our Savior.

What is my identity?

As a Pastor in India for a period of 6 and a half years and even that is being continued here as well, so as a Pastor, I committed my life to serving Him and serving others as He served us, my behavior and mindset reflects or should reflect the One I am serving. That is my identity. With this in my mind I cannot now live a worldly life and at the same time serve the Lord, because one can or should have only one master ruling in me. Life in Christ for me is not a life of "I don't get to do what I like".

It's not or never a life of loss. Instead, it's a life of abundance, where what I used to like and desire, pales in comparison to what my heart now desires. I hope everyone sitting here, the "Christians" can see, feel and experience the world in a different way. A much grander, deeper and meaningful way.

Everyone knows John 3:16.

Every church group uses it for missions and encouraging salvation in Christ.

God loving the entire world is an unfamiliar teaching to Jesus' listeners.

Nicodemus is a Pharisee.

He's highly educated with significant status in the Jewish community.

He knows the Mosaic law very well and keeps high ethical and moral standards.

He recognizes the power of God at work in Jesus.

In the ancient world, status is directly related to your birth credentials.

A person's honour starts at birth and remains until death.

He must be very curious about this man of humble birth...

Without the credentials for honor within human society;

And yet is a wise rabbi treated with such respect by some, hatred by others, and performs signs that are clearly from God.

Nicodemus' life is like a billion \$\$ lottery win. So no surprise Jesus confuses him.

Moses bronze serpent is ancient history; which many in Israel wished to forget.

Moses crafts that image and immediately sick and dying people are well.

Done.

Now, Jesus is that serpent on a pole lifted up?

What a mysterious message.

Of course, Jesus means lifted up -- nailed, bleeding, dying, to save the world.

For God so loved the world –

this is the KOSMOS, the known universe, not just our little earth.

John 3:16 is the Gospel in a nutshell filled with meaning.

"You're a mess. I'm a mess. The world we are in is a mess. But still, God loves you."

Good news indeed.

God so loved the world – that sent Jesus.

This is the most important part.

Most people latch onto the belief part.

Born again Christianity has hurt as many as it has helped.

If we only “hear” the part about believing, it soon turns into a job we must do.

Belief is a gift because faith comes to each of us as a gift.

You don't need to do anything with it, just enjoy it, trust it, let it be.

This kind of believing is relational.

Not that we must create a friendship with our Lord,

He does it for us.

That's why John 3:16 is both personal and universal.

ALL living things are considered by God in the world He saves.

Why?

Because “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

God doesn't condemn anyone.

If He does, Adam and Eve would've been the first and last people on earth.

We are already condemned from before our birth.

We don't make our entry into the world perfect and sweet smelling.

God never condemns His children.

People do.

Sin does.

The Law does.

Satan does.

When we choose the ways of evil and darkness and violence, we condemn others and ourselves

to the acts of rebellion and destruction and darkness and violence.

This is why Jesus makes it clear: you must be born anew.

Nicodemus, Israel, Romans, Greeks, Asians, Indians, Canadians, everyone.

Believing happens when we are born ANEW.

Literally, the Greek word means BORN FROM ABOVE.

Location, not status is important.

Nicodemus' status as a wealthy, prominent Jew equals NOTHING

As far as his standing before God.

Human biology carries no salvation for us, only through Christ, who is born of God and Mary.

Location for salvation is centred in Jesus.

Who comes from above, the Heavenly realm.

Birth from above, however unthinkable that event might be, it alters one's ascribed honor status in a very basic way.

A newly ascribed honour status is born.

Not in the womb of a mother, but in the womb of the church, with Holy Baptism.

Through Water and the Spirit.

Totally a heavenly action.

Pure grace.

There's absolutely nothing we can do to make God love us more, and there's absolutely nothing we can do to make God love us less.

God already loves us infinitely, and nothing is ever going to change that. So we can let go of the endless burden of having to win God's approval. We can let go of the anxiety that if we make a mistake, we must win God's Love back. Instead of God standing over us with a big stick waiting to beat us up for our failures, God is standing *beside* us in Jesus.

Lifting us up when we fall in the same way Jesus is lifted up on the cross.

More than that, God is living *in* us through the Holy Spirit – giving us the oxygen of grace that we need to live the Jesus Way.

In this love and hope we can go home from church today in the sure knowledge, not just that our God lives in our hearts, but that He *holds* us in *his* heart – which is surely the safest place in the world to be, now and through eternity.

So the Cross becomes God's glorious message to the world He loves.

When Jesus is rejected and mocked and whipped and nailed and killed, GOD IS *rejecting our rejection*.

Jesus does not overcome evil with evil; he overcomes evil with GOOD.

The arms of Jesus are open wide on the Cross in welcome to all:

Come to me – whoever you are, whatever you've done – come to me, and I will give you rest.

For everyone there is rest.

From the homeless to the homebound;

The poorest in money to the poorest in peace.

Nicodemus, whose very name means "the people's victor", eventually turns out to be openly a faithful supporter of Jesus (John 7:50-51, 19:39).

The Gospel is the only power to change and create new births from above.

Allowing us to recognize that we are called to be servants, not to make servants of others;

we are called to love one another in the same way Jesus loves us;

we are called to be people of peace, not people of violence and warfare;

this creation is entrusted to our care and for the support and well-being of everyone; that the weaker and more vulnerable a person is,

the more they are to be given our care and protection.

I vividly remember an illustration that I read somewhere a while ago, a single person asked another person who was a father of two, "Why do you love your kids?" The father thought for a minute, but the only answer he could come up with was "Because they are mine". Then I pondered upon that answer and thought that is true, there was no need for his children to prove themselves by undergoing any tests. He took them just as they were. So, it is with God's love for us as well. He loves us, as we are and it is his love that motivates us to trust and obey him in return.

So this day, we are invited to trust the Lord's salvation anew and live each day in the hope and security of that love.

Especially this gift comes alive to each one of us at the communion table.

May the love and grace of our Lord Jesus lead us into the rebirth that makes it possible for us to truly see the kingdom of God, Amen!!

Zacchaeus and Jesus

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R	A	H	Y	S	O	R	T	A	X	E	V	O	L
L	E	A	N	O	N	V	C	R	O	W	D	U	B
A	C	G	T	T	G	S	E	Y	N	N	O	S	D

- TAX
- MONEY
- GOOD
- JOY
- BAD
- WRONG
- GENEROUS
- JERICHO
- ZACCHAEUS
- CROWD
- GRUMBLE
- HATE
- JESUS
- LOVE
- CLIMB
- ABRAHAM
- SHORT
- RIGHT
- GOD
- TAKE
- CHEAT
- HOUSE
- STAY
- TREE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2750717/>

Lent

T G P W Z P C B E G W P P Y I R T V J P
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Abstinence

Ash Wednesday

Atonement for Sin

Fall of Man

Fasting

Forty

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Holy Thursday

Holy Week

Lent

Mortification

Palm Sunday

Passion Sunday

Passiontide

Penance

Prayer

Quinquagesima

Septuagesima

Sexagesima

Triduum Sacrum

CHRIST'S CAFÉ

YOU ARE INVITED

downstairs

for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Every Sunday!!

(during Sunday School & CHAT)

**Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please
contact:**

Judy Mason 905-641-7546



Please Join Us for: Easter Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 31st at 11:30 a.m.



Please join us for our
"Annual Easter
Pancake Breakfast"

served at 11:30 a.m. (following
the service) in the Church basement. Breakfast
includes: pancakes, sausages, hot-cross buns,
coffee and orange juice.



Price is a free-will offering

(to enable the Fellowship Committee to cover costs)

As it is the custom for the men of the congregation to do the cooking and serving, we are once again asking the gentlemen to sign up on forms located in the narthex for the time most convenient and place it in the offering basket or place in the envelope on the back bulletin board. Thank you !!

**Everyone
is Welcome**