

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

9:15am - Hybrid Worship



Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

2725 Concord Dr, Florissant, MO 63033

Find us online: www.lc-livingchrist.org

The Word has been made real flesh. We are constantly reminded of Jesus' very real humanity throughout scripture: "who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness." (Phil. 2:6-7).

We remember also how God chooses to dwell not in halls of power, but is born as a baby in an ordinary village. The Divine Presence dwells where we least expect it. For those who awaken to the true promise of the divine, a different way will be taken...sending us out in ways we least expect, by other roads.

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

Welcome! If you came as a guest today, we hope you leave as a friend. May this worship service surround you with the love of God through Christ and fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Invitation to Communion: We welcome all to commune at LCLC. It is not our table, nor this congregation's table, nor our denomination's table. It is the table of Jesus Christ. By his invitation there is a place for everyone. We believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine that forgives sin, nourishes faith, and calls us to be witnesses to the gospel.

Notes about our worship service: Guidance is printed in *italics* throughout. "P" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "L" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "C" and parts in **boldface** indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation. You may also follow along with the service by looking at the screen in the front of the sanctuary. Liturgical pieces are set to familiar Christmas tunes. This liturgy is provided by the Eastern Missouri Conference of the Central States Synod. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE

Agincourt Hymn

by Dunstable

WELCOME

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news:

C: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Oh Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" ELW#319

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked. ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The Word of God still speaks.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem "Wounded Lamb"

Psalm: Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

L: ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C: ²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

L: ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

C: ⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

L: ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C: ⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.**

L: ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C: ⁸“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

L: ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

C: ¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

L: ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

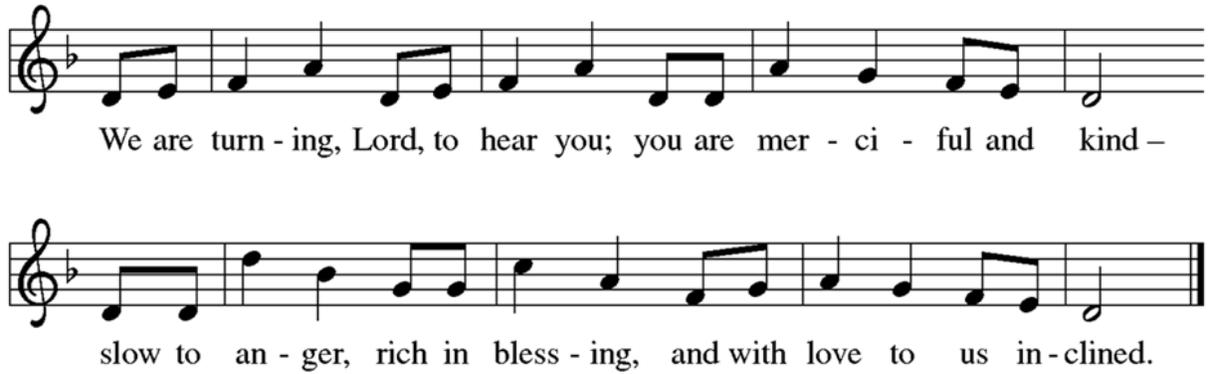
Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life. ¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: The Word of God still speaks.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (During Lent)



Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter vs 1-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one. ¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON **Pastor Matt Helfrich**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Love, How Deep

ELW#322

Apostles' 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 Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration (*especially*). Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards (*local sources of food and food distributors may be named*), that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants (*other ministries of care and hospitality may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or another form of greeting.

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, the hosts of heaven and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Illuminating God, source of creation, our salvation and our hope, we praise you for your creative labor, bearing expectations for life and love. When we strayed from your path and chose cruelty and despair, you spoke to us through unexpected prophets: Isaiah envisioned a blossoming desert; Mary proclaimed a world turned upside down; John the Baptist cried out for repentance. At this expectant hour, your Son Jesus came to bring us extraordinary love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life among us, his death as one of us, and his resurrection, the first of all of us, we anticipate his coming in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal we share: that we may work for justice, build hope for your already but not yet reign, and share the anticipated love and joy of your Son. All glory and honor is yours, in your holy creation, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C: Amen

The assembly is seated.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. You may come forward to receive communion at the altar or partake with prepackaged elements at your seat. However communion is given and received, we trust Jesus is present in the bread and cup we share as a gathered community.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

ELW#325

Post-communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you God’s grace into life everlasting.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

P: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

P: God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW#618

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Theodore Beck

Announcements for the week of 2/26/23

1. **Please remember to bring your food donations for TEAM. Please see the set up in the great room. See Bill Kaepfel for more details.**
2. **Congregational Vitality Team (CVT)** are in the process of planning our annual spring community Easter Event and.....**WE NEED HELP !!!!!!!** Please consider volunteering to help with:
 - Obtain Thrivent Funding
 - Purchase Easter egg hunt supplies
 - Prepare Easter eggs
 - Manage Easter egg hunt
 - Assist with food/drink purchase, preparation, and distribution
 - Plan, purchase supplies, and assist with cake walk
 - Coordinate with neighboring communities with event planning**Additional assistance as identified *SAVE the DATE: Saturday, April 1***

February 26, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Matt

Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett

Lector: Dave Endorf

Zoom & Slides: Rod Wallace

Musician: David Eggers

Usher: LeVaughn & Sheila Smart

Greeter: Marilyn Wiley

Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

March 5, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Randy Henning

Lector: Terry Calderwood

Zoom & Slides: Erle Craig

Musician: David Eggers

Usher: Jim & Doris Stoechner

Greeter: Kathy Endorf

Altar Guild: Karen Haynes & Sheila Smart

Coming Up at Living Christ

Monday 2/27	5:00pm Noble Guard
Tuesday 2/28	10:00am Bible Class 11:00am Exercise 7:00pm Bible Class (ZOOM)
Wednesday 3/1	
Thursday 3/2	11:00am Exercise
Friday 3/3	
Saturday 3/4	5:30pm Noble Guard
Sunday 3/5	8:00am Vocal Choir; 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Ed. Hour 11:00am True Vine Church of God