

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor
(319) 389-5526

Matthew Baker, Vicar
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: orlc@cfu.net Website: theforgivenessplace.org

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

TO OUR VISITORS We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with “Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors’ Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.
- ✘ Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.
- ✘ Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor’s card in the Offering plate.
- ✘ Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.

OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion. If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Knox,

Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

THOSE SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Rod Lair **Service Assistant:** Logan Baker

Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Brad Bovy, Kaiser Bovy

Offering Counters: Cheryl Nissen, Sarah Staker **Shut-Ins:** Jake Jackson



TODAY IS THE 4th SUNDAY IN LENT, historically a reprieve Sunday from the discipline and penitential spirit associated with the Season of Lent. The Purple vestments and paraments of Lent are set aside, and Rose ones are used instead. This subtle but noticeable change draws attention to the brief relief from the penitence associated with Purple to a spirit of hope, peace, and joy associated with Rose.

In old usage, this is called, “Laetare Sunday.” The name comes from the Latin *laetare*, an imperative meaning “rejoice.” This is the first word in the traditional Introit for the day which begins, **“Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her,”** from Isaiah 66. It is also known as “Refreshment Sunday” and it has a counterpart in the penitential

season of Advent – “Gaudete” Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent when Purple vestments are likewise exchanged for Rose ones. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as the Church progresses toward the end of each respective penitential season.

It is fitting then that we hear Jesus speak those familiar words of John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world that He gave is only begotten Son . . .”** Unfortunately, these words by themselves are quite meaningless apart from the context in which Jesus spoke them. So today we join Nicodemus in coming to Jesus with questions. “What does it mean to be born again by water and the Spirit? What do you mean that the Son of man must be lifted up ‘just like Moses lifted up the bronze serpent?’”

God’s love for the world, apart from the crucifixion of Jesus and Baptism into this crucifixion, is irrelevant and gives no cause for rejoicing. But for those Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, there is much “rejoicing” this day. As your eyes fall upon the Rose colored paraments adorning the church today, may they lead you to “fix your eyes on Jesus” and to “rejoice” that Christ, present in His body and blood, comes to refresh and strengthen you with His forgiveness, life, and salvation.

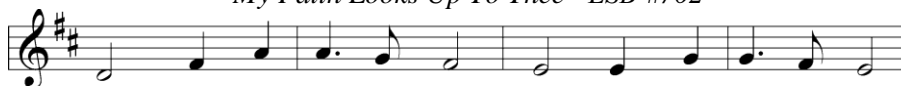
**Liturgical Change For Lent*

- The “Gloria In Excelsis” is omitted.
- Lenten “Gradual” will be sung by the Cantor
- The “ Alleluia” is omitted. In place of the Alleluia the Cantor will sing the Lenten “Verse.”

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

“My Faith Looks Up To Thee” LSB #702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand/Remain Standing

Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin

P/V: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Introit



Cantor: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

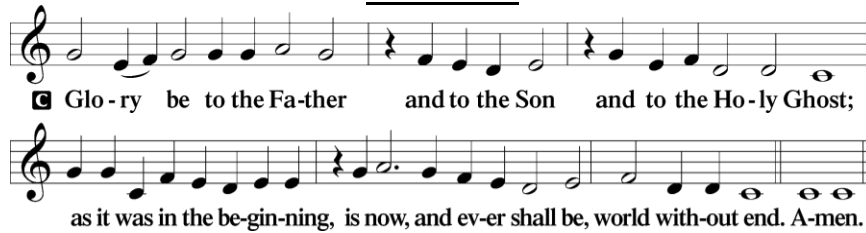
**Cong: I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the Lord!”
Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!**

Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*
May they be secure who | love you!
For my brothers and com- | panions' sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”

Cantor: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

(Ps. 122:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Is. 66:10a, 11a)

Gloria Patri



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



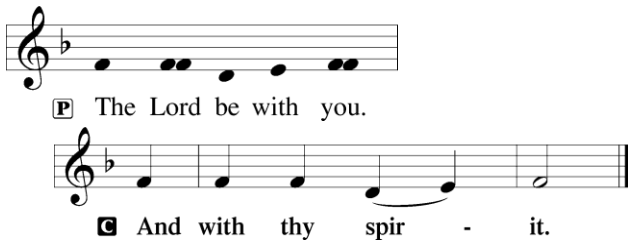
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Omitted during Lent

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

The Salutation



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

II Timothy 4:22

The Collect of the Day

P: 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.



C A - men.

Be seated

The Old Testament

Numbers 21:4-9

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual

Cantor: [O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the Author and Perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis - | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

The Epistle

Ephesians 2:1-10

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia

*The Alleluia is omitted during Lent.
In its place the Cantor will sing the Verse*

The Verse

Cantor: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2:13

The Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

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



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, 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.**

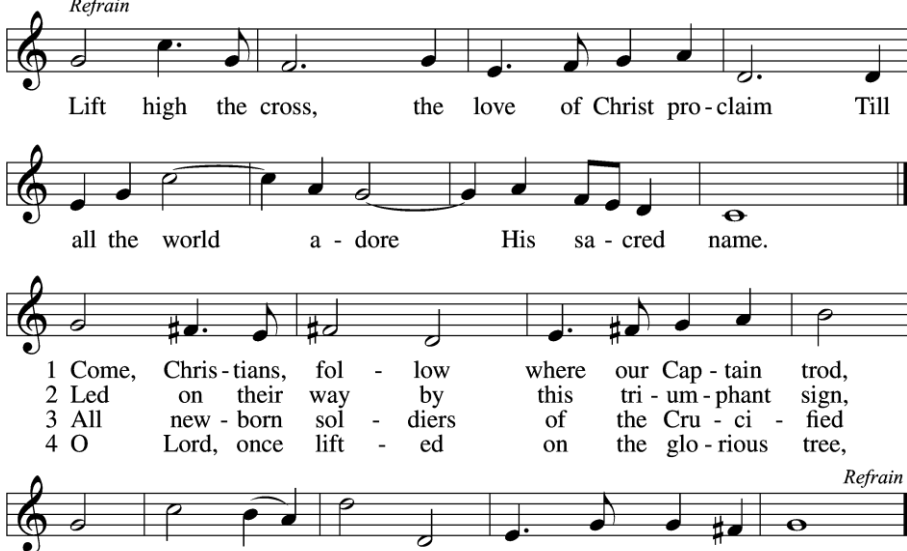
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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 worshiped 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**

The Hymn of The Day

"Lift High the Cross" LSB #837 (Choir Stanzas 2, 5)

Refrain



Congregation Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

Congregation 1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,
Choir 2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,
Congregation 3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied
Congregation 4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con-quer-ing ranks com-bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to Thee.

Choir 5. *Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain*

Cong. 6. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

The Offertory

Psalms 51:10-12



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-
new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood.

Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged 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.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.

✕ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✕

Sun. 3/10	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class and Sunday School (No Sunday School today or on March 31)
Mon. 3/11	9:00 a.m.	Vicar’s Bible Study at Our Redeemer
Tues. 3/12	6:00 p.m.	Vicar’s Bible Study at Peace-Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service at Peace-Shell Rock
Wed. 3/13	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	12:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
	5:25 p.m.	Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
Sat. 3/16	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Vespers at Peace – Shell Rock

HYMNS FOR MIDWEEK SERVICE AND 5th SUNDAY IN LENT

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 Midweek Lenten Service 4

Reading: John 12:44–50
Psalmody: Psalm 119:9–16 (antiphon: v. 10)
Office Hymn: “As Surely as I Live,” God Said 614 (st. 5-8)
Closing Hymn: Baptismal Waters Cover Me 616

March 17, 2024 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:32-45
Invocation: Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand 564
Hymn of the Day: Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing 847
Distribution: My Song Is Love Unknown 430
Distribution: *God So Loved the World* *adult choir*
Distribution: Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way 857

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. The class is studying Revelation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on March 10 or on March 31.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. We are no longer going to schedule the class after Lenten Services. The class studies the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. The class is studying "Agricultural Themes" throughout the Bible. The class will resume in March on the 11th at Our Redeemer.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. During Lent, the Youth will not meet on Wednesdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU Dear Members of Our Redeemer, you have shown your love for my family in many ways, but we were particularly touched to see the flowers you sent for my grandfather's funeral and to know you were praying for us on this day.

Thank you!

Vicar Baker and family

FLOWERS AREN'T USUALLY SEEN IN THE CHURCH DURING LENT Because today is Laetare Sunday, the discipline of Lent is relaxed for a time. The Flowers today are given by Walt Miller in remembrance of, and thankfulness for, his wife Nadine and son Tom. *"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him."* **Psalm 62:1**

PASTOR KNOX WILL BE OUT OF TOWN during part of the upcoming week. In case Pastoral care is needed please contact Vicar (605/342-0259) or your Elder. Pastor Knox may be reached on his phone as well. (319/231-9761)

THE OUR REDEEMER BOOK CLUB starts a new book Wednesday, March 13. Join us at 10:00 a.m. as we read and discuss "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur. This book gives readers a fresh look at the disciples: a collection of ordinary, diverse men (fishermen, tax collector, political zealot, among others) selected by Jesus to be "fishers of men." The book is divided into easy-to-read chapters – basically "a disciple a week." We would love to have you – even if you can't come every week, this book lends itself to the drop-in reader. For further information, please contact Sara Lair (319) 266-1163 or Greg Gerjerts (319) 961-1103.

IS ONE OF YOUR TALENTS SERVING OTHERS? Please give some thought to joining our Altar Guild. Each month, the Altar Guild group assigned to that month is responsible for each Divine Service. These duties include:

- Setting up for communion and clean up
- Changing the Paraments according to the season of the Church Year

Call me with any questions. Sandra Stone 319-610-6754

THE MOST RECENT EDITIONS OF THE REPORTER AND LUTHERAN WITNESS are available this morning. The Lutheran Witness is focusing on the topic of "Hope"

MIDWEEK LENTEN CATECHETICAL SERVICES will take place each week during Lent with Services at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Peace on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.) This year during Lent we will devote our attention to that portion of the Catechism on "The Office of the Keys and Confession." On the foundation of God's word, the Catechism asks and answers several questions regarding Confession and Absolution:

- What Do You Believe According To These Words? (3/12)
- How do I use this forgiveness in a God pleasing way? (3/19)

As you live the life of repentance, please set aside this "extra" time during Lent to be instructed in God's Word and grow in your understanding, and use, of this gracious gift of God.

IOWA THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM *"Church and Ministry: Then and Now"* A theological conference for Pastors and Laity will be held at Camp IoDisECa May 22-24. There are posters about the conference on the bulletin boards in the Church building. There is online information at the Camp's Website and Facebook pages. Presenters include: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, Rev. Michael Holmen, Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Rev. Dr. John Stephenson, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford.



CATECHISM OF THE WEEK
The Office of the Keys and Confession

What is the Office of the Keys?

It is the peculiar church power which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of penitent sinners, but to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

Thus writes the holy Evangelist John, chapter twentieth: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that, when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, especially when they exclude manifest and impenitent sinners from the Christian congregation, and, again, when they absolve those who repent of their sins and are willing to amend, this is as valid and certain, in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself.

What is Confession?

Confession embraces two parts. One is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, and in no wise doubt, but firmly believe, that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess those sins only which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful; whether you have grieved any person by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted aught, or done other injury.