

RIVER OF LIFE



10 MARCH 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

Fourth Sunday in Lent

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht (623) 312.8650 pastor.lincoln.albrecht@gmail.com

WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

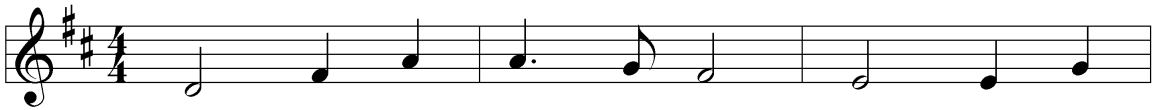
God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

A snake on a pole is a hideous sight! It was a reminder of the pain inflicted by the snake's bite and even more a reminder of the cause of the snake's bite—sin. Now we, too, look in Lent at something initially hideous. Christ on the cross is horrible to look at since his suffering is what we deserve to suffer and a reminder of the greatness of our sin and guilt. But only at the cross do we even begin to grasp the depth also of God's love for the world. Jesus himself points our eyes to that tree and gives us the balm of healing that lasts into eternity. The Light has come into the world. Our sin and our world are horribly dark and hideous to behold, but Jesus is the light of our lives and the light of the world. Whoever believes in him possesses eternal life and loves the light! What we have earned is death. What Jesus gives is eternal life!

OPENING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee | 402 (1-3)



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a -



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me
faint - ing heart; My zeal in - spire! As thou hast
round me spread, Be thou my guide. Bid dark - ness



while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;
died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
turn to day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way,



Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.

The Gathering

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord ✚ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

P: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

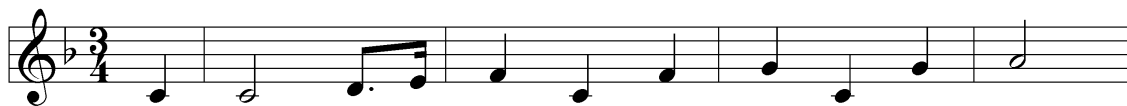
P: **Amen.**

Praise & Prayer

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

To God Be the Glory | 399 (1)



1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!



He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,



Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin



And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.

Refrain



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son



And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.



The Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 3

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, God's truths are presented in a simplified way for all.



VERSE OF THE DAY

John 3:16

M: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

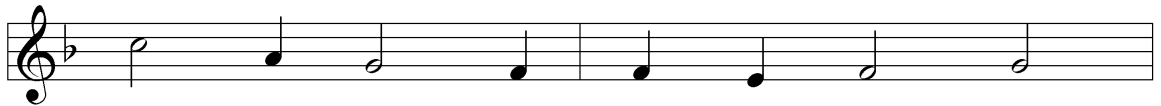
P: that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

SONG OF PRAISE

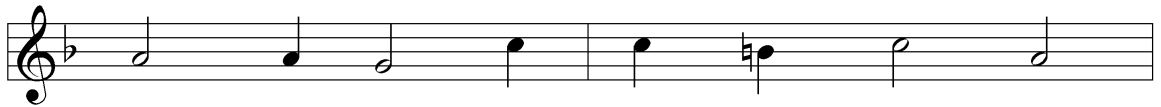
The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace | **288 (1-2)**



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who



sent his Son to save our race, Pro -
made the a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice And



claims how Je - sus lived and died That
calls the souls with guilt op - pressed To



we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
come and find e - ter - nal rest.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 21

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.



GOSPEL READING

John 3

M: The Gospel according to John chapter three:

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 What grace is this! My Lord and
 2 What grace is this— That ve - ry
 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of
 4 What grace is this! Rude a - gon -
 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in
 6 What grace is this? How can it



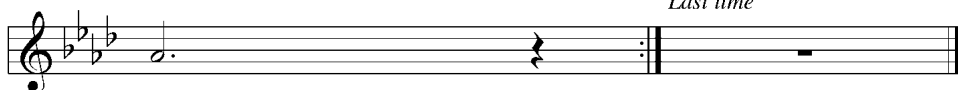
King Has set his face to suf - fer -
 God Would stoop to lift a cross of
 all, He yields to Pon - tius Pil - ate's
 ies! With com - mon thieves he hangs and
 cloths And gent - ly laid in man - ger -
 be? He wears this raw hu - mil - i -



ing. My God e - ter - nal dies to
 wood And walk a road of rock and
 law And lets the Ro - man ham - mers
 bleeds. The sin - less Son bears each mis -
 trough, He's ta - ken, dead, from wretch - ed
 ty To lift me to e - ter - ni -



bring E - ter - nal life to
 blood, A sin - ner's road, for
 draw A rush of blood for
 deed. He pays for all, for
 cross And wrapped a - gain for
 ty. Such grace—sweet grace— for



Last time

me.
 me.
 me.
 me.
 me.
 me.

Our Response to God's Word

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

P: We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.

M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

APOSTLES' CREED ¹



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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

¹ The Apostles' Creed first appeared in a letter written by Ambrose in 390 AD after a church council. This creed was written to confess the Bible's teachings in a simple way.

HYMN

There Is a Redeemer | 519



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in___ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

P: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

P: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

P: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

P: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Loving Lord, we know some who are skeptical of the truth of God's Word. Help us point them to the true Christ. Hear our prayers on their behalf:

A time for silent, personal prayers for the skeptical.

M: Son of Man, you were lifted up for our salvation. We pray as you taught us:

P: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

P: Amen.

SONG OF DEPARTURE

On My Heart Imprint Your Image | 319

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my
hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of five lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second line continues the melody and lyrics. The third line continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth line continues the melody and lyrics. The fifth line concludes the piece with a double bar line.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. Stick around for a bite to eat and a refreshing drink. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

INTERESTED IN JOINING RIVER OF LIFE?

Would you like to learn what the Lutheran church believes and teaches? Are you interested in joining our church, or going through a refresher class? We would love to meet with you and study God's Word. If you're interested, speak with Pastor Albrecht.

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND OURS!

Easter is right around the corner! To prepare our hearts and minds for what Christ has done for us, we have a number of opportunities to grow in and share our faith. On Thursday, March 28th (7pm) we will mediate on the meal Jesus gives us—the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday (4pm) we will hear why his death was the only way to save us. On Saturday, (8am) we will enjoy a breakfast together and ponder how one of Jesus' disciples handled his death and resurrection. Then on Sunday, March 31st, we have a day chock full of celebrations. The morning begins with breakfast at 7:30am, a festival worship service featuring the Branches Band at 9am, and an Easter Egg Hunt afterwards. Make plans to join us for this significant week and watch God grow your faith.

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Hymn #402 **My Faith Looks Up to Thee** Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87.

Hymn #288 **The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace** Text: Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Hymn #399 **To God Be the Glory** Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, alt.

Hymn #715 **What Grace Is This!** Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 © 2005 Laurie F. Gauger.

Hymn #519 **There Is a Redeemer** Text: Melody Green, b. 1946 Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt. Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI no. 20992735.

Hymn #319 **On My Heart Imprint Your Image** Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703, abr.; tr. Peer O.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Mar. 10** (10 am-Noon) Corned Beef Bash
- Mar. 13** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Mar. 13** (7:00 pm) Midweek Lenten Worship:
God On Trial—Accusations
- Mar. 15** (4:30 pm) Youth Catechism Class
- Mar. 17** (9:00 am) Worship (with Lord's Supper) **Spared:
Redeemed & Reunited**
- Mar. 17** (10:30 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed Be the
Name: Adam & Eve**
- Mar. 20** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Mar. 20** (7:00 pm) Midweek Lenten Worship:
God On Trial—Restraint
- Mar. 24** (9:00 am) Worship **Spared: From Humiliation
For Celebration**

CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

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refreshing truth for you