

# RIVER OF LIFE

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24 MARCH 2024



**RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN** | refreshing truth for all people

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

## *The Passion of Our Lord*

### **OUR PASTOR**

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### **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.

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### **OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

During Holy Week, the family of believers gathers to praise God for the great acts of love through which he has redeemed us through Jesus Christ. The journey of Lent has prepared our hearts to ponder anew the Passion of our Lord and his glorious triumph over death and grave. With repentant hearts, we join our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, confident in his everlasting rule, hailing him as our Eternal King. Palm Sunday sets the tone for everything we need to know about how our King & God's kingdom works. Jesus goes to battle for us—facing sin, death, and devil in our place. This King of glory is our Messiah, the promised Son of David sent as the sacrificial Lamb of God. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, for he comes to bring peace from heaven to earth.

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# The Gathering

## INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

M: Dear friends in Christ, during the weeks of Lent we have been preparing to commemorate our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection.

Today, we come together to begin the solemn journey of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Savior and to gain for us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

We follow him in faith and praise him with joy.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

P: **Hosanna in the highest!**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: **Amen.**



## 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.*

**11** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

<sup>4</sup> They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup> some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" <sup>6</sup> They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. <sup>7</sup> When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.



# SONG OF PRAISE

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* | 130



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid  
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That



lit - tle chil - dren sang; Through pil - lared  
an ex - ul - tant crowd, The vic - tor  
an - cient song we sing, For Christ is



court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them  
palm branch way - ing And chant - ing clear and  
our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n, our



rang. To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close  
loud. The Lord of saints and an - gels Rode  
King. Oh, may we ev - er praise him With



fold - ed to his breast, The chil - dren sang their  
on in low - ly state Nor scorned that lit - tle  
heart and life and voice And in his roy - al



prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.  
chil - dren Should on his bid - ding wait.  
pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The Plot

**GOSPEL**

Mark 14

**14** Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>2</sup> “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

<sup>3</sup> While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

<sup>4</sup> Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup> It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

<sup>6</sup> “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup> The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup> They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

HYMN

*My Song Is Love Unknown* | 397 (1-4)



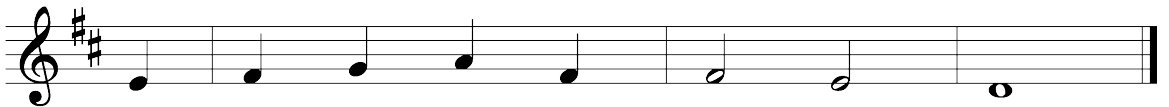
1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
 stow, but such dis - dain! So few the longed - for Christ would  
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their  
 spite? He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I that for my sake  
 know! But oh, my friend, my friend in - deed,  
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath,  
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 who at my need his life did spend!  
 and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 them - selves dis - please and 'gainst him rise.

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## *The Passover & the Lord's Supper*

### **GOSPEL**

*Mark 14*

<sup>12</sup> On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

<sup>13</sup> So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. <sup>14</sup> Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

<sup>16</sup> The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup> When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup> While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

<sup>19</sup> They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

<sup>20</sup> "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup> The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

<sup>22</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

<sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

<sup>24</sup> "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. <sup>25</sup> "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



## HYMN

*It Was a Dark and Dismal Night* | **417 (1-3)**



1 It was a dark and dis - mal night when pow'rs of  
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the  
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our  
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his  
eat the liv - ing food." Then took the cup and



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.  
ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of grace he spoke!  
blessed the wine: "This is my all - a - ton - ing blood."

## 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](http://azriveroflife.com/connect)) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

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## The Garden of Gethsemane

### GOSPEL

Mark 14

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

<sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

<sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

<sup>43</sup> Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

<sup>47</sup> Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup> "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled.

HYMN

*O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken* | **432 (1, 4-5)**



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken  
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!  
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness,



that such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?  
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;  
 the sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime have you to make con -  
 the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants  
 we for - feit - ed our lives, yet are ac -



fes - sion, what dark trans - gres - sion?  
 owe him, who would not know him.  
 quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

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## *Before the High Priest of Israel*

### **GOSPEL**

*Mark 14*

<sup>53</sup> They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. <sup>54</sup> Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

<sup>55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup> Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

<sup>57</sup> Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.' " <sup>59</sup> Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

<sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

<sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. <sup>64</sup> "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

# HYMN

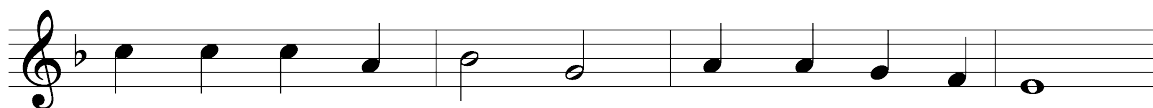
*In the Hour of Trial* | 406 (1-2)



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me  
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm



lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.  
or its tempt - ing trea - sures spread to work me harm,



When you see me wa - ver, with a look re - call,  
bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne



nor for fear or fa - vor ev - er let me fall.  
or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.

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## Before the Roman Governor

### GOSPEL

Mark 15

**15** Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

<sup>2</sup> "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

<sup>3</sup> The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

<sup>5</sup> But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup> Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup> A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup> The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

<sup>9</sup> "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup> knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

<sup>12</sup> "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

<sup>13</sup> "Crucify him!" they shouted.

<sup>14</sup> "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

<sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love for Us | 523 (1-2)



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all  
 2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his



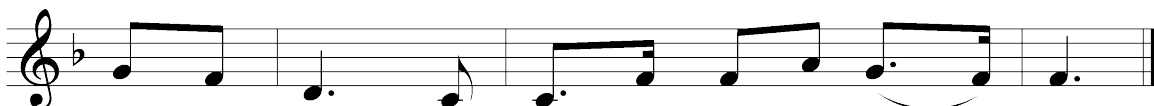
mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to  
 shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.  
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the  
 un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
 brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.

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## The Crucifixion & Death of Jesus Christ

### GOSPEL

Mark 15

<sup>16</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup> They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him...

<sup>25</sup> It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

<sup>27</sup> They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>[28]</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross and save yourself!" <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

<sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

<sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

<sup>36</sup> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"



**HYMN***Upon the Cross Extended* | **434 (1-3)**

1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, see, world, your  
 2 Who is it, Lord, that bruised you? Who has so  
 3 I caused your grief and sigh - ing by e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed; your Sav - ior yields his breath.  
 sore a - bused you and caused you all your woe?  
 mul - ti - ply - ing as count - less as the sands.



The Prince of life from heav - en him - self has free - ly  
 We all must make con - fes - sion of sin and dire trans -  
 I caused the woes un - num - bered with which your soul is



giv - en to shame and blows and bit - ter death.  
 gres - sion, while you no ways of e - vil know.  
 cum - bered, your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

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*The Burial of Jesus Christ***GOSPEL***Mark 15*

<sup>42</sup> It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

**HYMN**

*Lamb of God* | **550**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died: the hum - ble King they named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
 rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain*



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the



ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious



blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

## THE LORD'S 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.

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Hymn #130 **Hosanna, Loud Hosanna** Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821-80, alt.

Hymn #397 **My Song Is Love Unknown** Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683, alt. Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962

Hymn #417 **It Was a Dark and Dismal Night** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt. Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-c. 1561

Hymn #432 **O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken** Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; (st. 5): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Hymn #406 **In the Hour of Trial** Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

Hymn #523 **How Deep the Father's Love for Us** Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Text and tune: © 1995 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI no. 20992735

Hymn #434 **Upon the Cross Extended** Text: tr. John Kelly, 1833-1890, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, abr. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450-1517

Hymn #550 **Lamb of God** Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958 Tune: Twila Paris, b. 1958 Text and tune: © 1985 Mountain Spring/Straightway Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI no. 20992735

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# RIVER OF LIFE

*Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days*

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- Mar. 24** (10:30 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed Be the Name: Adam & Eve**
- Mar. 26** (4:45 pm) Neighborhood Canvassing
- Mar. 28** (7:00 pm) Maundy Thursday (with Lord's Supper)  
**Spared: And Strengthened**
- Mar. 29** (4:00 pm) Good Friday Worship  
**Spared: Once for All**
- Mar. 30** (8:00 am) Bible Breakfast Club
- Mar. 31** (7:30 am) Easter Breakfast
- Mar. 31** (9:00 am) Easter Worship with Branches Band
- Mar. 31** (10:20 am) Easter Egg Hunt

## 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