

RIVER OF LIFE



25 FEBRUARY 2024



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

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

Second Sunday in Lent

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. 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

Last week, Jesus did battle for us in the wilderness—facing Satan's temptations and triumphing over "the old, evil foe." In today's readings, the Devil attacks more covertly. In a matter of moments, everything that Job had been blessed with—including all he had worked hard for—was gone. This was nothing less than an attack of Satan on his faith. How did he respond? By praising the name of the Lord—putting into practice the encouraging words we hear from Paul in Romans 5. In the Gospel reading, Jesus faces this same temptation—and it comes from someone he loves and loves him. But even if Peter could have claimed that he had his heart in the right place, it was deceitful beyond all measure. Jesus could not have accomplished his mission if he avoided suffering. Jesus could not redeem sinners without a shameful death on the cross. This is why he forcefully rebukes Peter, because he came to save us from our sins.

The Gathering ¹

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

People: Amen.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This | **120 (1)**

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
soul! What won - drous love is this, O my soul!
What won-drous love is this That caused the Lord of
bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!

M: Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

P: Deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

¹ Today's Gathering Dialogue is based on the God-inspired words of King David from **Psalm 69**. David offers this prayer for help in the midst of attacks and sufferings imposed on him by his enemies. These afflictions of David foreshadow the even greater afflictions upon Christ Jesus (see **John 15:25**).

M: Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink.

P: **Answer me, Lord, out of the goodness of your love; in your great mercy turn to me.**

M: Do not hide your face from your servant. Answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

P: **Come near and rescue me; deliver me because of my foes.**

M: In your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.

P: **God of Israel, may those who seek you not be put to shame.**

M: Lord, the Lord Almighty, may those who hope in you not be disgraced.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This | 120 (2)

2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
down, When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down,
When I was sink - ing down Be - neath God's right - eous
frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

P: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

P: **Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us.

Forgive us.

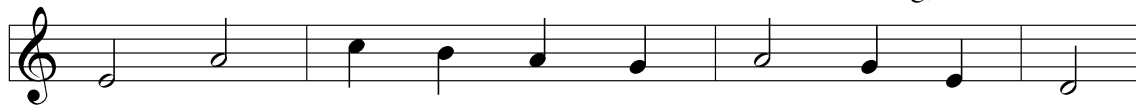
Restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This | **120 (3)**



3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will



sing; To God and to the Lamb I will sing;



To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I



Am, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will



sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

P: The Lord hears the needy and does not despise his captive people.

M: The poor will see and be glad— you who seek God, may your hearts live!

P: I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

M: Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This | **120 (4)**

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Word of God

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 5

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

Philippians 2:8

M: Jesus humbled himself
P: **and became obedient to death,**
M: even death on a cross.

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory Be to Jesus | 103 (1-3)



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream



Poured for me the life - blood From his sa - cred veins.
Blest be his com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.
Which from end - less tor - ments Did the world re - deem.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 1

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 1

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised.”

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8

M: The Gospel according to Mark chapter eight:

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
 2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
 3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
 what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
 his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
 He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
 We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

Refrain



Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

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 ²

**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!

² *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.*

Installation and Recognition of Church Officers

M: Dear friends in Christ, in Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his body, the Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in the faith. You have been selected for positions of service to our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with an office which you are to carry out as his servants and according to his Word. God tells us:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve. If it is teaching, let him teach. If it is encouraging, let him encourage. If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously. If it is leadership, let him govern diligently. If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

The Lord seeks faithfulness from all who serve, as Scripture says: "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." The Lord does not seek from us what he has not given to us. But when he does give a gift, his will is that we use it faithfully to his glory and for the benefit of his people.

You are also, as servants of Jesus Christ and workers in the congregation, to set for your own families and the whole Church the example of Christian lives. Make the Word of God your foundation and guide. Search the Scriptures daily for your own personal comfort and instruction.

So that this congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you in the presence of God and his people: Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the office entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

C: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

– Each Council Member's Name & Office Is Announced –

M: May God grant you his Holy Spirit and give you wisdom and strength to carry out your duties to his glory and for the good of his people.

EXHORTATION TO THE CONGREGATION

M: Members of River of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God's gifts to his Church. Pray for them. Support and encourage them in their service. Help them so that, through the Gospel ministry of this congregation, more and more people will be reached for Christ and his kingdom will be advanced in our midst.

Will you, the people of River of Life, support, encourage, and pray for these men and their work?

If so answer: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: We will, and we ask God to help us.

BLESSING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

M: Go, then, and give yourselves fully to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is not in vain.

May our Almighty and Merciful God—The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you. Go in peace.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

M: Merciful and gracious God, our lives are open before you and you hear our promises. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit into the hearts of your servants, that they may carry out their duties with diligence, boldness, and wisdom. Give them a spirit of devotion and prayer, that in every time of need they may present their requests to you. Help them to be examples of what is good—that by their lives they may build up your congregation and give the enemies of the Church no cause for complaint. Make them a blessing to your believers, help them to work with their pastor and with one another, and grant that, by their service, the unity of this congregation may be strengthened, your name be hallowed, your kingdom be enlarged, and your will be done, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

P: Amen.

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 upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

P: Amen.

SONG OF DEPARTURE

Be Still My Soul | 415 (1-2)



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take



Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
To guide the fu - ture as he has the past.



Leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;
Your hope, your con - fi - dence, let noth - ing shake;



In ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re - main.
All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.



Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

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.

CORNED BEEF BASH

SUNDAY (MARCH 10TH)

On March 10th, after our worship service, we are going to be hosting our Corned Beef Bash. This will be a fun fellowship meal for you, your whole family, and our community. During the week prior, our Daylight Team will be helping us to invite people to join us and learn more about our Savior's love for them. We would love to have you bring a side or a dessert to share for this meal. See the sign up sheet on the table under the front TV.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP SERVICES WEDNESDAYS

How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. Each service features a potluck soup supper beforehand. Make plans to be fed physically & spiritually.

DAYLIGHT MISSION TEAM

MARCH 3-10

Three young ladies—Morgan, Kaitlin, and Caitlin—from Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN)—our synodical worker training school will be helping us advance God's kingdom in our community. They need your help, support, and prayers. How can you help? You can go with them out into our community, provide housing, treat them to a home-cooked meal, or sponsor a lunch or dinner. Talk with Pastor Albrecht if you have any questions.

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Hymn #120 **What Wondrous Love Is This** Text: A General Selection of . . . Spiritual Songs, Lynchburg, 1811, alt.

Hymn #103 **Glory Be To Jesus** Text: Italian hymn, 18th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Hymn #579 **His Mercy Is More** Text and tune: © 2016 Getty Music Songs, Messenger Hymns, and Love Your Enemies Publishing, admin. MusicServices.org. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 724517.

Hymn #415 **Be Still, My Soul** Text: Catharina A. von Schlegel, 1697-1752, abr.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97, alt.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days



Feb. 25	(10:20 am)	Family Bible Study: Immanuel: Washes His Disciples' Feet
Feb. 28	(6:00 pm)	Lenten Soup Supper
Feb. 28	(7:00 pm)	Midweek Lenten Worship: God On Trial—Truth
Mar. 1	(4:30 pm)	Youth Catechism Class
Mar. 3	(9:00 am)	Worship (with Lord's Supper) Spared: By God's Wisdom—Not Ours
Mar. 3	(10:20 am)	Family Bible Study: Immanuel: Washes His Disciples' Feet
Mar. 6	(5:00 pm)	Choir Practice
Mar. 6	(6:00 pm)	Lenten Soup Supper

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