

RIVER OF LIFE



3 MARCH 2024



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

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

Third 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

Time in God's house and among God's people seems like it should be the time we can let our guard down. But anyone who has spent more than a few of the Lord's Days at church knows better. The Old Evil foe is hard at work even in these moments. At times, we get distracted by who's there and who's not there, what they said or how they're looking. In other moments, the music or that morning's message isn't quite what we were hoping for. Some Sundays, because we struggle to focus or just go through the motions, we leave feeling empty rather than filled with the Spirit. Today, Jesus shows us how concerned he is about strengthening our souls and making the most of our time in God's house. Jesus goes to great lengths to clear out the clutter in our hearts and minds and set the power and the wisdom of the cross as the foundation for our lives. What Christ has done for us in his life, death, and resurrection is the power and wisdom of God for us.

OPENING HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be | 385 (1-2)



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.

The Gathering

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

P: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
 For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
 For sins of habit and sins of choice,
 For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
 You should cast me away from your presence forever.
 O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be | **385 (3)**

3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a
 wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

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: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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

1 Corinthians 1

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

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

John 3:14-15

M: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

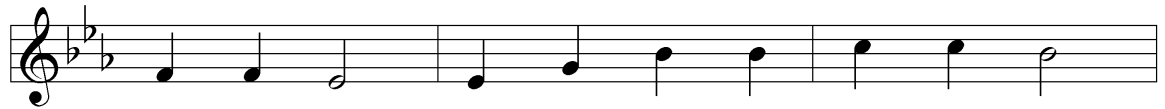
P: **that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.**

HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be | **385 (4-5)**



4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



all to me. All my wants to him are known;
and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

20 And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."



¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Salvation unto Us Has Come | 390 (1-5)



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace
 2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him
 3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law
 4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die
 5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;
 can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand
 has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem
 de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,
 sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to
 For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has
 And by their works gain heav - en. The law is
 Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for
 And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -



Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
 lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.
 law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
 life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

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.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

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!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord, when we consider the perfection of your laws, the righteousness of your ways, we are humbled by how far we have strayed and how often we have wandered from you. Rebuke and rescue us all, Savior of the nations.

P: Make the words of our lips and the meditations of our hearts pleasing in your sight. May your zeal for our salvation consume our hearts and lives.

M: Move us to seek your glory—not our own! Help us honor you in all we do.

P: Compel us, by the sacrificial love of Christ, to serve the needs of others.

M: Son of God, we live with so much clutter. Cleanse us so that we might serve you with everything we have and with everything you have made us to be.

P: Holy Spirit, direct our lives—our time, our strength, and all our precious resources—to be focused on the wisdom and ways of the Lord God.

M: Lord Jesus, your zeal moved you to drive out the fine things that had set up shop and become first things. Now you tell us that you are pleased to make your dwelling in us.

P: You make us into your sacred temples. Sanctify us to match this calling.

M: Your Law reveals your nature and your desire for us. Hear our private prayers for our own lives of sanctification.

A time for silent, personal prayer for God's children and our sanctification.

M: Sanctify us by your truth, Lord. Your Word is truth. In your name, we pray:

P: Amen.

Prayer of Preparation: Lord God, Heavenly Father, You called me by name and declared that I was Your child through the washing of my Baptism. I desire, now, to receive the true body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in this Holy Meal. Continue to grant me grace, that I may stand before You and the body of believers and faithfully speak of the hope that is mine through Your life, death, and resurrection. Strengthen me. Grant me the forgiveness of sins and the ability to do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

M: Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

P: I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin.

M: Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

P: The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.

M: Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.

P: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus | **DS II 557**



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting, in whose name we pray:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

M: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

P: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei | **DS II**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

At River of Life, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, along with the bread & wine, we miraculously receive the real body & blood of Christ for the full forgiveness of sins. Scripture directs believers in preparation and reception: **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."** (1 Cor. 11:29)

This meal is also an expression of unity with one another: **"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."** (1 Cor. 10:17) Therefore we ask that if you are not familiar with our teachings, please speak with Pastor Albrecht before taking the Lord's Supper. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

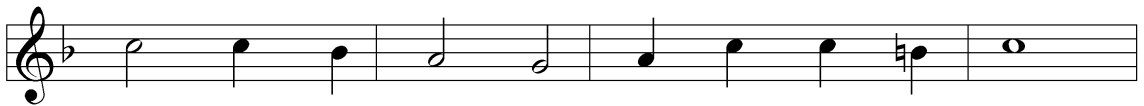
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord | 309



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
3 Come for - ward, then, with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields,
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread makes them that hun - ger whole,
Be - fore your al - tar, Lord, your ser - vants bow;



Him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirs - ty soul.
In this your feast of love be with us now.



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre -
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; Take heed how
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion If sal - va -
 5 Christ says, "Come, all you that la - bor, And re - ceive



God's wrath for - ev - er; By his bit - ter grief and
 cious food sup - ply - ing, Gives his bod - y with the
 you are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be -
 tion you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup -
 my grace and fa - vor; Those who feel no pain or



woe He saved us from the e - vil foe.
 bread And with the wine the blood he shed.
 lieve, Judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
 pose You need not him who died and rose.
 ill Need no phy - si - cian's help or skill."

6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken
 That this food is to be taken
 By the souls who are distressed,
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.

7 Praise the Father, who from heaven
 Unto us such food has given
 And, to mend what we have done,
 Gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes
 And your mouth your sin confesses,
 Surely you will be his guest
 And at his banquet ever blest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Feed Your Children, God Most Holy | 616



Feed your chil - dren, God most ho - ly; Com - fort



sin - ners poor and low - ly. Je - sus, bread of life from



heav - en, Bless the food you here have giv - en.



As these gifts the bod - y nour - ish, May our souls



in gra - ces flour - ish Till with saints in heav'n - ly



splen - dor At your feast due thanks we ren - der.

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

Lift High the Cross | 579

Refrain



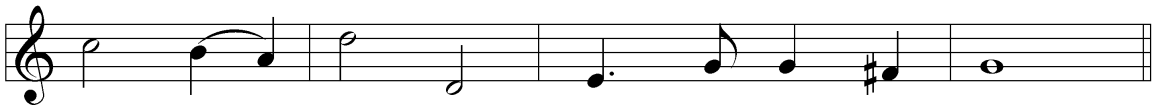
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro - claim Till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod, Our
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, The
3 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise



king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.



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 coming week, 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.

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 arriving this evening to help us advance God's kingdom in our community. How can you help? There are still a couple of meals you could host or sponsor, but mostly they'd love some company as they carry the good news of salvation to our neighbors. Look for opportunities to walk with them.

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Hymn #385 **Chief of Sinners Though I Be** Text: William McComb, 1793–c. 1870, alt.

Hymn #390 **Salvation unto Us Has Come** Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr.; tr. composite.

Hymn #309 **Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord** Text: Latin hymn, 7th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

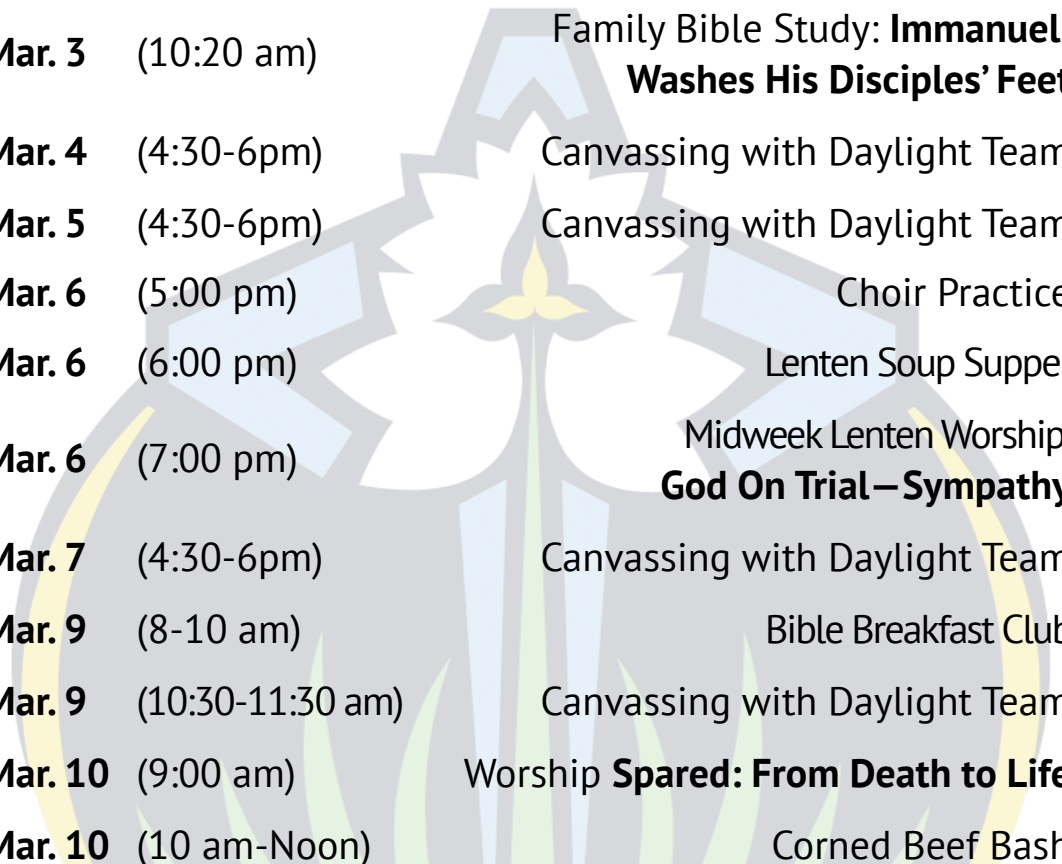
Hymn #313 **Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior** Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. composite.

Hymn #579 **Lift High the Cross** Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912, abr., altered by Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Hymn #616 **Feed Your Children, God Most Holy** Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days



Mar. 3	(10:20 am)	Family Bible Study: Immanuel: Washes His Disciples' Feet
Mar. 4	(4:30-6pm)	Canvassing with Daylight Team
Mar. 5	(4:30-6pm)	Canvassing with Daylight Team
Mar. 6	(5:00 pm)	Choir Practice
Mar. 6	(6:00 pm)	Lenten Soup Supper
Mar. 6	(7:00 pm)	Midweek Lenten Worship: God On Trial—Sympathy
Mar. 7	(4:30-6pm)	Canvassing with Daylight Team
Mar. 9	(8-10 am)	Bible Breakfast Club
Mar. 9	(10:30-11:30 am)	Canvassing with Daylight Team
Mar. 10	(9:00 am)	Worship Spared: From Death to Life
Mar. 10	(10 am-Noon)	Corned Beef Bash

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.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AZRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you