

ENDURING JOY

THE JOY OF RENEWED
STRENGTH



4 FEBRUARY 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

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

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

This morning we learn about Jesus' priorities. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus was a popular guy. Who wouldn't want to see a man who can completely heal anyone who is sick or suffering with anything—and heal them instantly, too? While his miraculous power is making quite a stir among the people of Capernaum, Jesus makes a point of devoting himself to prayer. He had not come to gain popularity, but to seek and save the spiritually lost. This kind of eternal healing and restoration to life comes to a person by faith, believing the undeserved love of God is for you. It's no wonder Jesus devoted himself to preaching! What did he preach? It is the message that runs through the entire Scriptures. God is not only powerful, he is compassionate. He rejoices in redeeming and strengthening his people.

OPENING HYMN

Come unto Me, Ye Weary | 336 (1-3)



1 "Come un - to me, ye wea - ry, And I will
 2 "Come un - to me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will
 3 "Come un - to me, ye faint - ing, And I will
 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not



give you rest." O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which
 give you light." O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which
 give you life." O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which
 cast him out." O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which



comes to hearts op - pressed! It tells of ben - e -
 comes to cheer the night! Our hearts were filled with
 comes to aid our strife! The foe is stern and
 drives a - way our doubt, Which, though we be un -



dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace, Of joy that
 sad - ness, And we had lost our way; But thou hast
 ea - ger; The fight is fierce and long; But thou hast
 wor - thy Of love so great and free, In - vites us



has no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
 brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
 made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
 ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to thee!

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: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.**

*Praise & Prayer*¹

M: Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

P: **Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

M: Praise the LORD, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

P: **Praise the LORD, who redeems your life from the pit.**

¹ Our dialogue of praise is from **Psalm 1**.

M: Praise the LORD, who satisfies your desires with good things,
P: So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
M: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
P: As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
M: But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—
P: Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
M: Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
P: Praise the LORD, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
M: Praise the LORD, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

SONG OF PRAISE

Come unto Me, Ye Weary | **336 (4)**

*4 "And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to thee!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?
Why do you say, Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Isaiah 40:31

M: Alleluia. Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

P: **They will soar on wings like eagles. Alleluia.**

SONG OF PRAISE

On Eagles' Wings | 440



1 You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, Who a -
2 Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
3 For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in his shad - ow for life, Say to the Lord: "My
fam - ine will bring you no fear; Un - der his wings your
guard you in all of your ways; Up - on their hands they will

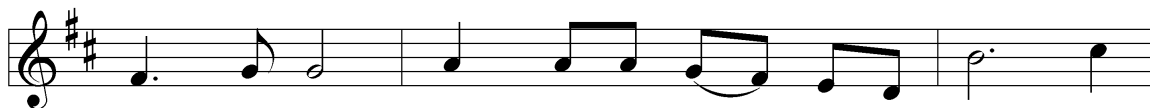


ref - uge, My rock in whom I trust!"
ref - uge, His faith - ful - ness your shield.
bear you up, Lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings, Bear you on the



breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And



hold you in the palm of his hand.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Peter 5

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1

M: The Gospel according to Mark chapter one:

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day by Day | 765



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
 When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.
 You will hold me ev - er in your hand.



Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
 Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,



Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

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.**

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!

Public Profession of Faith

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

Confessor: I do.

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe in the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit as confessed in the three Ecumenical Creeds?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

C: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: May God the Father who created you, may God the Son who redeemed you, may God the Holy Spirit who sanctified you keep you faithful unto life everlasting.

ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAYER

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him on behalf of Ned, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in him. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

M: Almighty God, in Baptism you made Ned a member of the body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. You washed Ned by Christ's blood, buried Ned with Christ in his death, and gave Ned a new life in Jesus' resurrection. Renew Ned by the Holy Spirit, which you have poured out on him generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let him live out his life as an heir of eternal life. Lead him to serve your Church in holiness and righteousness all his days. Keep him in fellowship with all of us who wait for the return of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

M: Let us pray as God's Son, our Savior, 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.

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: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus | CS



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

P: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei | CS



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, 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.

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
 giv-en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
 this is my blood giv - en up for you. *Last time*

Verses

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.
 A chos - en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the Shep-herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place; on me you rest
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.
 I am the Bride-groom, this my wed - ding song.

To Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

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.

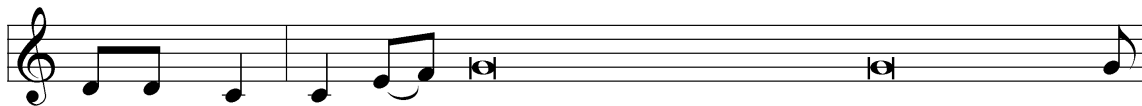
P: Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Nunc Dimittis | CS



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

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

It Is Well with My Soul | 850



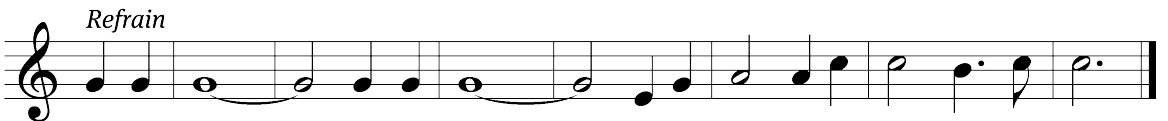
1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil-lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re-sound, and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so, it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.



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.

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.

OPEN FORUM AND VOTERS' MEETING

FEBRUARY 4

Join us after worship today to hear updates on ministry over the past year, discuss future plans, and make important financial decisions for our congregation. After the open forum, we'll also have a fellowship meal for all!

SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ACSTO

If you are an Arizona taxpayer, you can make a donation to ACSTO and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit in return. If you usually receive a refund from the state of Arizona, you'll get a bigger refund. If you typically owe, you'll owe less. When you make a donation you can identify a specific school or student to receive your donation.

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Hymn #741 **Take and Eat** Text (refrain): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Text (verses): James Quinn, S. J., b. 1919 © James Quinn, S. J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Hymn #850 **It Is Well with My Soul** Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, alt. Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Feb. 4** (10:20 am) Open Forum & Voters' Meeting
- Feb. 5** (10am–4pm) District Mission Board Meeting
- Feb. 6** (9am–2pm) District Mission Board Meeting
- Feb. 8** (10-Noon) RiverKids
- Feb. 8** (4:30pm) Church Council Meeting
- Feb. 11** (9:00 am) Worship: **Enduring Joy: Clarity**
- Feb. 11** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Breaks Bread With Sinners**
- Feb. 14** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Feb. 14** (7:00 pm) Ash Wednesday Worship (w/ Lord's Supper)
God On Trial—Testimony

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