



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

March 16th, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

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A Service of Worship and Praise

-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 243

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

-We Lift Up Our Hands and Voices to God-

We sing:

In Moments Like These

In moments like these I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing, "I love you Lord," singing, "I love you Lord;"
Singing, "I love you Lord. I love you."

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We stand here today before our Lord and Maker. He has created us to love Him and serve one another. But we have separated ourselves from Him with our sins. Let us be honest and confess to Him our sins.

C: Merciful Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I make no excuses. I have sinned against you by things I have done and the things I have not done. But I know that Jesus died for me. I stand before you in need of, and trusting in, your forgiveness.

We sing:

I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

M: It is my duty and privilege as a called servant of God to announce to you that you are forgiven. You have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ and stand before Him forgiven of all your sins, His child, and an heir of eternal life. Let's thank Him for His amazing grace.

We sing:

He Looked Beyond My Fault

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise,
For it was grace that bought my liberty.

I do not know just why Christ came to love me so,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,
To view the cross where Jesus died for me;

How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 26:8-15

⁸ But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die!" ⁹ Why do you prophesy in the LORD's name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?" And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰ When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house. ¹¹ Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!"

¹² Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. ¹³ Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. ¹⁵ Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

We Sing:

Order My Steps (v1)

Order my steps in Your Word dear Lord,
Lead me, guide me, every day,
Send Your anointing, Father, I pray.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

We Sing:

Order My Steps (v3)

Bridle my tongue, let my words edify;
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Thy sight.
Take charge of my thoughts, both day and night.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

³² He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY **African-American Heritage Hymnal 262**

Nothing But the Blood

SERMON

Stand Firm

Philippians 3:17-4:1

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

African-American Heritage Hymnal 406

Only Believe

PLEASE STAND

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord has given us a holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

C: Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

We Sing:

Awesome God

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns from heaven above

with wisdom, power, and love.
Our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love.
Our God is an awesome God.

THE 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.

BE SEATED

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood. Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Christian Worship 310

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

THANKSGIVING HYMN

My Tribute

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me
Things so undeserved, Yet you give to prove Your love for me?
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory, To God be the glory, To God be the glory
For the things He has done!

With His blood He has saved me,
With His pow'r He has raised me
To God be the glory For the things He has done!

Just let me live my life, Let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee;
And should I gain any praise, Let it go to Calvary.

With His blood He has saved me,
With His pow'r He has raised me
To God be the glory For the things He has done!

C: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness you sent Your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 242

Lift High the Cross

Volunteers help share the gospel in Kenya

I recently accompanied six volunteers and the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMP) field director, Gary Evans, to Kenya. The focus of our trip was to partner with Karima Lutheran Church to run a five-day short-term medical camp. The eight of us, along with Missionary John Roebke and his wife, Nancy, traveled to the village of Sagana, about 60 miles northeast of Nairobi. We met with church leaders to establish the roles we would each play throughout the week, and our volunteers were eager to get to work sorting supplies and medications right away.

On Sun., Feb. 9, we were able to join with the congregation to praise our Lord for his many blessings. We were reminded of God's great power when he healed King Hezekiah and reminded that he not only heals our bodies, but more importantly, he heals our souls.

The medical camp ran Feb. 11-15, and we jumped in to help in whatever ways we could. The volunteers assisted the local government healthcare workers in treating the physical needs of the nearly 2,000 patients who attended the camp by taking blood pressures, testing blood sugar levels, measuring height and weight, and re-stocking the pharmacy tent. However, that isn't the only reason we traveled thousands of miles! We had the opportunity to work side-by-side with church leaders who used this outreach method to bring the gospel message to their community and to each and every patient that came to the camp.

The women of the congregation made delicious meals for us each day and expressed their gratitude on our last day, saying: "We are so happy for everything you have done for us. We are singing because our hearts are happy! Even the community, they are saying they are so happy."

Volunteering in this way may be a lot of work and time away from families, but we make sure our volunteers have some fun also! Not only did the volunteers' relationships with one another grow, but they also built connections with the many people we worked with throughout the camp. Additionally, a trip to Kenya wouldn't be complete without a little sightseeing! An early-morning game drive in Nairobi National Park allowed the volunteers to marvel at God's creation as they saw rhinos, lions, giraffes, zebras, and ostriches up close and in the wild.

We thank God for allowing us the opportunity to work alongside fellow believers to share his love with those living near Sagana, Kenya.

Written by Kate Wood, secretary on the [Central Africa Medical Mission](#) Committee.

Serving at CoL:	Today	Next Sunday
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Karis, Elijah
Ushers	Lee	
Reader	Mike	Elijah
Altar	Karis	
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Karis	Linda
Cleaning	Seth	Bob
Mowing	Randy	Seth

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Thursday	10:30 AM Bible Class at Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Thursday	12:00 PM Confirmation Class, Picayune, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Today	Council, Ladies Guild
Apr 17	Maundy Thursday
Apr 18	Good Friday
Apr 20	Easter
May 4	Crawfish Boil
Jul 28-Aug 2	VBS: Wonder Junction

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget
Last Week	\$3,113.00	\$2,710.40	114.9%
February	\$9,892.05	\$11,745.08	84.2%
March	\$5,788.00	\$11,745.08	49.3%
Qtr-to-Date	\$26,310.07	\$35,235.25	74.7%
Year-to-Date	\$26,310.07	\$140,941.00	18.7%



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*



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