



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

March 30th, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

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A Service of Worship and Praise

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

OPENING HYMN

Christian Worship 111

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation says: And also with you.

-Introduction to Worship-

M: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Forgive my sins and change my life.

We sing:

Have Thine Own Way

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always living in me!

M: Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

We sing:

No Other Name But the Name of Jesus

Chorus: No other name, but the name of Jesus
No other name, but the name of the Lord
No other name but the name of Jesus
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;
His name is high above the heavens.
His name is exalted far above the earth;
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

Chorus

-We Pray Together-

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

C: The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

12 In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away
and you have comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴ In that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;

let this be known to all the world.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

We Sing:

Thy Word

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way
Still, You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be with me to the end.

Refrain

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-10

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their

minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

African-American Heritage Hymnal 533

Count Your Blessings

SERMON

Thanksgiving During Lent

Isaiah 12:1-6

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF 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

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Christian Worship 609

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

BENEDICTION

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 lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: AMEN

CLOSING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 252

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Establishing the church in Australia

Greetings, you who are loved by the Lord,

Chances are, if you flip to the end of any of the apostle Paul's letters you'll see something that you might typically skip over. There is usually a list of greetings and messages to people that Paul knew.

Do you know who those people are? They are the church—at least the start of it in Asia and Europe. Many of those he mentions are the hosts and leaders of house churches—people like Priscilla and Aquila, Archippus, Gaius, Jason, Lydia, and Nympha. They met in homes; gathered around the Word of Jesus in worship, study, and sacrament; disciplined others; and were intimately involved in serving each other. They were guided, mentored, and taught regularly by Paul and others.

In Australia, we are starting our work of building up the church. We are meeting passionate and capable Christians who are willing to host others in their homes, teach God's Word, and show the love of Christ. We daily encounter people from all over the globe: China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and many other places. They don't know the good news of the eternal life purchased for us by the blood of Christ, but thanks to the help of WELS members like you, we are there and can share this with them.

When my family agreed to move to Australia with our coworkers, Missionary Matt Doeblner and his family, it wasn't to start a church. It was to guide the start of many churches—groups all over Australia who gather around God's Word and reflect his love to others. Matt and I can be the "Paul" to these willing leaders and, as God blesses it, to even more leaders in the future. We can mentor, encourage, train, and connect them for fellowship.

I ask you to pray for us and consider [giving](#) toward this work. We are so grateful for all the WELS members who have supported World Missions in the past. We praise God for his provision and blessing as we continue to serve his kingdom in this new part of the world.

When you give an [offering](#) for the gospel work in Australia you are contributing the gift of time—time for us to be present, seize new opportunities, reach out to new communities, connect, make new friends, and deepen relationships. It gives us time to train and equip leaders and bring them together to unite them in our mission.

In closing, I ask one more thing. The next time you get to the end of one of Paul's letters and you see one of those early church leaders' names, say a quick prayer thanking God for the people who start churches—those who pray for and support the work, host the church, and lead the groups. Pray for this exciting new ministry in Australia.

Serving together,
Peter Janke
Missionary to Australia

Prayer: God, we praise you for using us to bring others to glorify you. We ask you to bless our new mission in Australia. Help the two missionary families who have settled into Chinese immigrant communities as they use a variety of ways to connect with neighbors, show them love, and share the gospel of Christ. Bless the partnership of these missionaries with our sister synod in Australia to reach even more people and grow the existing congregations. If it's your will, bring small groups together around your Word and raise leaders for Bible study and worship. We know, Lord Jesus, that where your Word is shared, you are carrying out your work, and we joyfully anticipate your saving of many souls. Amen.

Remembering what motivates us

We are now in the church season known as Lent, when we retrace the steps of Jesus on his way to the cross. This season is meaningful for all of us, but especially for people behind bars. We see Jesus arrested, put on trial, found guilty (even though he was far from it), condemned, and executed. During this process he is physically assaulted, disowned by friends, and forsaken by his heavenly Father. While it may be painful to revisit these events, it will do us all good. We'll see many things. Here are a few (all passages New International Reader's Version).

No matter how great or small our sin is in the world's eyes, we ALL need Jesus: *All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us have turned to our own way. And the Lord has placed on [Jesus] the sins of all of us. (Isaiah 53:6)*

Jesus was our substitute. He paid for our sins: *Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Here we see the height of God's love: *But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

Eternal life is ours because of this love: *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

Christ's love motivates our loving actions towards others: *Love is fulfilled among us when in this world we are like Jesus...We love because he loved us first. (1 John 4:17b,19)*

May this year's Lent and Holy Week once again be a blessing to you in your daily walk with Jesus. May this journey to the cross also motivate you to serve or give to our ministry because of the impact we are making by the Spirit's power in the hearts and lives of people Jesus died to save.

Dave Hochmuth, WELS Prison Ministry administrator

<u>Serving at Col.:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Bob, Edward Jr.	
Reader	Seth	
Altar		Karis
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Barb	Karis
Cleaning	Seth	
Mowing		

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
Apr 12	8:00 AM Workday; 10:00 AM Easter for Kids
Apr 13	Church Council; Ladies Guild
Apr 17	Maundy Thursday; 7:00 PM Seder Meal
Apr 18	Good Friday
Apr 20	Easter
May 4	Crawfish Boil
Jul 28-Aug 2	VBS: Wonder Junction

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget	Projected
Last Week	\$13,275.00	\$2,710.40	489.8%	
March	\$22,695.00	\$11,745.08	193.2%	\$26,314.94
Qtr-to-Date	\$43,217.07	\$35,235.25	122.7%	\$45,366.66
Year-to-Date	\$43,217.07	\$140,941.00	30.7%	\$183,987.00

in your bank app:



*"...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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CROWN OF LIFE