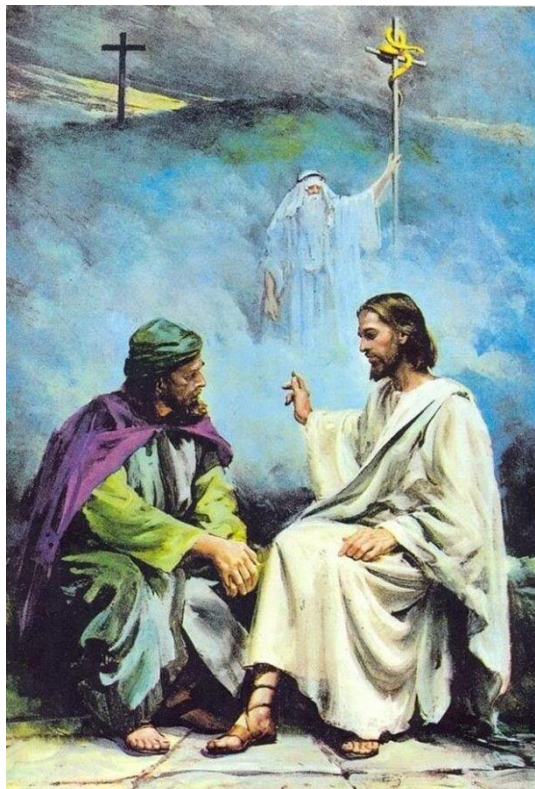




Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 5, 2023  
9:30am

YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. PLEASE SIT QUIETLY AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.



Nicodemus listening to Jesus

**Risen Christ Lutheran Church**  
46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170  
734.453.5252 [www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)

**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

**OFFERING** – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of

**Online Giving** by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

**Large Print Bulletins** – Available from an usher.

**Listening Assistance Devices** – Available at the Sound Booth.

**Parent Room** – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

**For Children** – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

**Pre-service** – *Mrs. Jennifer Kirk on piano*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Call to Worship – “King of Kings”**

1. In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

***CHORUS: Praise the Father  
Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory  
Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of kings***

2. To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died

3. And the morning that You rose  
 All of heaven held its breath  
 Till that stone was moved for good  
 For the Lamb had conquered death  
 And the dead rose from their tombs  
 And the angels stood in awe  
 For the souls of all who'd come  
 To the Father are restored

4. And the Church of Christ was born  
 Then the Spirit lit the flame  
 Now this Gospel truth of old  
 Shall not kneel shall not faint  
 By His blood and in His Name  
 In His freedom I am free  
 For the love of Jesus Christ  
 Who has resurrected me **CHORUS**

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## Invocation and Opening Sentences

*Psalm 25:1, 2a, 4-6, 7b*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**
- P** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. **C** **O my God, in You I trust.**
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.
- C** **Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.**
- P** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- C** **According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

## Mighty to Save

1. Everyone needs compassion  
 A love that's never failing  
 Let mercy fall on me  
 Everyone needs forgiveness  
 The kindness of a Savior  
 The hope of nations

**CHORUS:** *Savior, He can move the mountains*  
***Our God is mighty to save***  
***He is mighty to save***  
***Forever Author of salvation***  
***He rose and conquered the grave***  
***Jesus conquered the grave***

2. So take me as you find me  
 All my fears and failures  
 Fill my life again  
 I give my life to follow  
 Everything I believe in  
 Now I surrender **CHORUS**  
 Shine your light and  
 let the whole world see  
 We're singing  
 for the glory of the risen king **CHORUS**

**ENDING:** Shine your light and  
 let the whole world see  
 We're singing  
 for the glory of the risen king - Jesus  
 Shine your light and let the whole world see  
 We're singing for the glory of the risen king

Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding CCLI Song # 4591782 CCLI License # 140952  
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## Confession and Absolution

- P** O God, our Father, we confess that by nature, we are sinful and that in our pride, we have turned away from Your commands.
- P** Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have thought and said and done that is contrary to Your will and Your ways, and forgive us for all those times when we have trusted in our own righteousness instead of relying on Your grace in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer.
- P** Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have not been good stewards of Your great creation and for those times when we have been unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**
- P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.
- C Amen.**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 12:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 121; antiphon: v. 8*

- L** The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.
- C** **I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**
- I** *He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.*
- II** *Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*
- C** **The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**
- I** *The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*
- II** *The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.**

## Epistle

*Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." . . .

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual and Verse

*John 3:16; Hebrews 12:2*

- C** **For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**
- I** *O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,*
- II** *who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- C** **For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

## "Cross" Reference

Ap XIII 8

**P** One of the original purposes for the Lutheran Confessions was to respond to questions about what Lutherans believed, taught, and confessed regarding Christian doctrines. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession addresses the teaching about the sufficiency of the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ in this way: "We teach that the sacrifice of Christ dying on the cross has been enough for the sins of the whole world. There is no need for other sacrifices, as though Christ's sacrifice were not enough for our sins. So people are justified not because of any other sacrifices, but because of this one sacrifice of Christ, if they believe that they have been redeemed by this sacrifice." For those who realize the price paid by Jesus on the cross to win salvation, the cross itself becomes a source of wonder and praise. That sense of holiness found in the cross is lyrically presented in the great Lenten hymn by John Bowring, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory."

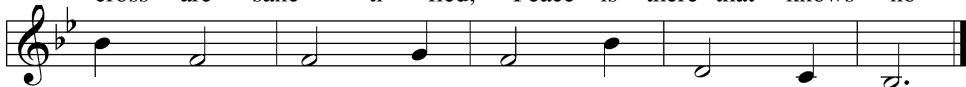
### In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

### Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

#### **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Sermon – "Nicodemus Finds That We Need More Than Just Another Teacher" by Pr. Rennie**

### **Catechism**

*The Second Article*

**P** In the Second Article of the Creed, our confession is focused on Jesus, our Redeemer—who God in His love gave to bring us salvation and the promise of eternal life. We speak the words of the Creed:

**C** **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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**P** What does this mean?

**C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**Offering** – ONLINE GIVING available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info) – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for all Christians around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, bless our learning and our worship and our questioning and our study and our witness as we grow in faith and devotion. O Lord,

**C** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

**WOMEN** – We pray for all nations of the earth, that in all places there may be times of lasting peace. We pray for people in lands where there have been upset and strife. And we pray for our own nation that it may know safety and that people may be joyful in their daily lives. O Lord,

**C** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

**MEN** – We pray for all those whose labor serves us as we live out our lives under Your watchful eye, especially those in the military, our police personnel, medical workers, and all those whose efforts support the common good. O Lord, **G** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

**WOMEN** – We pray for the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs, bringing to You our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes. Assure us that the sufferings of this present life are but transitory and that Your grace endures forever. O Lord, **G** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

**MEN** – Joined to the generations of the faithful, we remember all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and now rest from their labors. Lord, inspire us by the witness of the faithful from all generations that we may complete our earthly journeys with confidence in Your gracious promises as they did in their lifetimes. We beseech You, O Lord, **G** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **G** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**G** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Because He Lives

1. God sent His Son they called Him Jesus  
He came to love heal and forgive  
He bled and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove  
My Savior lives

2. How sweet to hold our newborn baby  
And feel the pride and joy he gives  
But greater still the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days  
Because Christ lives

**CHORUS: Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives**

3. And then one day I'll cross that river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He reigns

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## Benediction

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