



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship

9:30am

March 10, 2024

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,  
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR  
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



*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.

**As We Gather** – We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God’s great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God’s genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus’ death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God’s love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God’s love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

**Preservice and Postlude Music** *by Jenn Kirk*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship – “Build My Life”**

1. Worthy of ev’ry song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of ev’ry breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You **CHORUS**

**CHORUS: Holy there is no one like You**  
**There is none beside You**

***Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are***  
***And fill me with Your heart***  
***And lead me in Your love to those around me***

2. Jesus the name above ev'ry other name  
 Jesus the only one who could ever save  
 Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe  
 We live for You  
 We live for You **CHORUS**

**BRIDGE:** I will build my life upon Your love  
 It is a firm foundation  
 I will put my trust in You alone  
 And I will not be shaken

**Invocation and Opening Sentences**

*John 3:16*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

**P** God so loved the world,  
**C** **that He gave His only Son,**

**P** that whoever believes in Him should not perish  
**C** **but have eternal life.**

**P** Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,  
**C** **and then to the resurrection and eternal life.**

**Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,

bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more; Feed me till I want no more.  
 shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
 Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

## Introit

*Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

**though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

**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 is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

*Numbers 21:4–9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have

spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

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

## Psalm

*Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19*

<sup>1</sup>Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble**

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>4</sup>**Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;**

<sup>5</sup>hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup>**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>7</sup>He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

<sup>8</sup>**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men!**

<sup>9</sup>For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 2:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

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

## Nicene Creed

**C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;**

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Verse

*John 3:16*

- P** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,  
**C** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

### Holy Gospel

*John 3:14–21*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] "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. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever  
 does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

<sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than  
 the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does  
 not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever does what is true comes to the  
 light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

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

### God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
 That is the firmest ground of faith.
- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
 Be praise now and eternally!

## Sermon – Sin, Like a Snakebite, is Overcome!

*(Based on today's Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings)*

### A. Serpent problems from the Garden of Eden on!

1. God's first promise of the Messiah in Genesis 3:15.
2. The snakes in the wilderness of Sinai were divine punishment.
  - a. The people were impatient and complaining.
  - b. We like the Israelites are quick to forget!
  - c. The Israelites finally saw their guilt and repented. Fear and hopelessness was used to bring them to repentance, and back to their only Provider and Deliverer they needed!
3. God does judge sin harshly, but He delights in mercy more than judgment!
  - a. He faithfully keeps His promises.
  - b. Our God hears His people as they turn to Him and repent, providing the only and perfect remedy for whatever afflicts them!
    - i. God didn't provide someone that would crush the serpents' heads that were biting the people in the wilderness, but He gave them the remedy that removed the venom's power.
    - ii. So, in the midst of death, life was given!

4. The Israelites faced a problem they created, and God provided the solution!

**B.** The non-earthly type serpent problems that endanger our eternal lives, and the promised cure!

1. The deadly side-effects of evil and sin as we struggle with our old flesh, the venom of satan's lies and this world.

2. This world outside the Church doesn't recognize the serpents, or the bites. They don't acknowledge the very real Spiritual Warfare that IS GOING ON! They are clueless or blind to the pain and suffering from the bites from the lies of the world and satan. And they don't really consider those as determining our home in eternity! This is a tragic and eternally deadly mistake.

3. Jesus identifies Himself as the One that is lifted up... the Only One by which salvation comes.

4. Sin, like a snakebite, is overcome! It is finished. He has the last word – forgiven as He took on your guilt. Your shame, guilt... your cuda-shuda-wudas are not your problem any more. When the accuser replays your past forgiven sins, turn to the cross, and yell at the devil that all those things were nailed to the cross, they are no longer on you! In Christ we live. Hallelujah and Amen!

## **Confession and Absolution**

☐ A short lesson on Confession and Absolution – As we are asked to give and receive forgiveness, Jesus Himself gave authority to pastors to forgive the sins of those who repent, also. This is known as the "Office of the Keys." It is Jesus' forgiveness alone. He gives it privately between you and Him. He *also* gives forgiveness through the Office of Pastor that He instituted. It is only by His authority which He delegated. We find this in John chapter 20, "21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'" So, when you hear the words of absolution, trust that you are forgiven, as if Jesus Himself said it, because He said so.

☐ Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ's love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace.

*Silence for reflection.*



**P** Heavenly Father,

**C** **we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

**P** Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.**

**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** Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions, we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief. Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially...*]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
**G** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**G** **Amen.**

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**G** **And also with you.**  
**P** The Lord be with you.  
**G** **And also with you.**  
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**G** **We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**G** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **G** Amen.

## Communion

### How Beautiful

1. How beautiful the hands that served  
The wine and the bread  
and the sons of the earth  
How beautiful the feet that walked  
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross

***CHORUS: How beautiful how beautiful  
How beautiful is the body of Christ***

2. How beautiful the heart that bled  
That took all my sin and bore it instead  
How beautiful the tender eyes  
That chose to forgive and never despise

***CHORUS***

CCLI Song # 443594

Twila Paris

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***BRIDGE:*** And as He laid down His life  
We offer this sacrifice  
That we will live just as He died  
Willing to pay the price  
Willing to pay the price

3. How beautiful the radiant Bride  
Who waits for her Groom  
with His light in her eyes  
How beautiful when humble hearts give  
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live

4. How beautiful the feet that bring  
The sound of good news  
and the love of the King  
How beautiful the hands that serve  
The wine and the bread  
and the sons of the earth ***CHORUS***

## You Are My King (Amazing Love)

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted You were condemned  
I'm alive and well Your Spirit is within me  
Because you died and rose again

***CHORUS: Amazing love how can it be  
That You my king would die for me  
Amazing love I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You  
In all I do I honor You***

***BRIDGE:*** You are my king Jesus You are my king (Repeat)

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## The More I Seek You

The more I seek You  
The more I find You  
The more I find You  
The more I love You

***CHORUS: I wanna sit at Your feet  
Drink from the cup in Your hand  
Lay back against You and breathe  
Feel Your heart beat  
This love is so deep  
It's more than I can stand  
I melt in Your peace  
(It's overwhelming)***

CCLI Song # 4447991

Zach Neese

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## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

## Jesus Loves Me

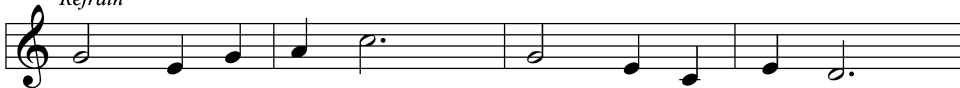


1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.  
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.  
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

### Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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