



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship  
March 16, 2025 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER  
HIS SANCTURARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ  
THROUGH THIS 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 the Lord's Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted 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 and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the "individual" and "common" cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice 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 through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and 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.

**Call to Worship** – "**Hills and Valleys**" (*Lyrics projected onto chancel walls*)

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation and Opening Sentences**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Today is the Lord's Day, a Sunday *in* Lent, but not part *of* it—a little Easter. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,

**C** in Jesus' name. Amen.

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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.**

## Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

***CHORUS: My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace***

3. The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures ***CHORUS***
4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

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Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio  
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## Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us make confession to our heavenly Father.  
With David, we can be confident that “the Lord hears when I call to Him.”
- C** **But we confess that we are not always that confident. When answers are delayed, we wonder if God is still listening.**
- P** With Jeremiah and Jesus, we know that we carry God’s Word of judgment and grace with us.
- C** **But we confess that we seldom have the prophet’s courage, preferring to avoid confrontation and possible harm to ourselves.**
- P** With Paul, we would “stand firm . . . in the Lord,” knowing that “our citizenship is in heaven.”
- C** **But we confess that at times the present moment looms larger than eternity, and we focus on earthly things.**
- P** The Epistle promises that the One we await is “a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Let us therefore confidently go to God, asking His forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

*Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.*

- P** Almighty God, heavenly Father,
- C** **we confess that we are by nature sinful. We have failed to love You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have reflected the society around us more than Your will for us in daily living. For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord, forgive us, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Christ Jesus, true man and true God, was obedient to His Father in all things and in our place. By His death, He destroyed death, and by His rising opened eternal life to all who call on Him for forgiveness. 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. May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey toward the joys of Easter.
- 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 are prone to set our minds on earthly things and our own self-glory.

**C** **By Your mighty power, turn our eyes toward our citizenship in heaven, anticipating our Lord's return at the end of all things;**

**P** 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

*Jeremiah 26:8–15*

**L** And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying,

**C** **You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant"?**

**L** And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord. When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people,

**C** **This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.**

**L** Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying,

**P** The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.

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

## Psalm

*Psalm 4; antiphon: v.8*

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

**You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!**

O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

**How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

**In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself;

**the Lord hears when I call to Him.**

Be angry, and do not sin;

**ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

**In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Offer right sacrifices,

**and put your trust in the Lord.**

There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?

**Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!"**

You have put more joy in my heart

**than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

**In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

## Epistle

*Philippians 3:17–4:1*

- L** Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
- C** **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.**
- L** Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Blessed Assurance

1. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

***CHORUS: This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long***

2. Perfect submission perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy whispers of love ***CHORUS***

3. Perfect submission all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting looking above  
Filled with His goodness lost in His love ***CHORUS***

## Verse

*Luke 13:35*

- P** Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see Me until you say,
- C** **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 13:31–35*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
- C** **Glorify to You, O Lord.**
- P** At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus],
- C** **Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill You.**

**P** And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish My course. Nevertheless, I must go on My way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see Me until you say,

**C** 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Forsaken – A Choice, but Whose?**

1. Jesus regarded Jerusalem as forsaken because they chose to make themselves that way – forsaken. They put themselves in that condition.
  - a. ἀφίημι (pronounced aphiaymi)... translated here as "forsaken"
  - b. These words of Jesus were not an eternal pronouncement of judgment and condemnation. It was their condition at that time.
2. Aphiemi
  - a. translated here as "forsaken" can also mean releasing something, loosing it, letting go... Jesus did mean here that God let them go...
  - b. But aphiemi is used to describe some of Jesus' miracles (loosed a man's tongue that didn't work... loosed lame people's limbs...)
  - c. Used to describe forgiveness of sins, i.e. forgiveness which releases/looses people from punishment, guilt, and shame.
  - d. He wants us to "aphiemi" sin, to forsake sin instead of Him!
3. From Creation onward, God consistently reached out in love offering forgiveness to Believers as they turned away from their rebellious sin. But, throughout time, people still rebel in prideful defiance... wanting to do things our way.
4. In spite of the rejection and abuse, God reaches out for His rebellious, angry, unfaithful children... but, finally God had to release/loose His children to their desires. They chose to forsake Him. He's not a bully, and out of love He released them.
5. There is a temptation for us to look down on these people, look back in time to these foolish Israelites who would forsake God time and time again... We are no different at times!
  - a. Some people have pushed God away, forsaken God, and choose to live in that forsaken state, but that is their choice. It is self-imposed forsakenness. But, the fires of hell are not yet their sentence, yet, because they are still alive. Thank God.
  - b. There are Christians who regularly worship but end up looking to and trusting in their own good works and service above really knowing God and His Word.
  - c. So often works-righteousness infects Christians, and it slaps Jesus in the face.
6. Jesus spoke those tragic words of this forsaken condition, but they still were living and still had a chance to repent and trust in Him!
7. God does not give up! While there is breath and pulse, there is a chance to repent.

## Apostles' Creed

- ☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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.  
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.

**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

- ☐ Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.  
Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for pastors and lay leaders near and far who, like Jeremiah, boldly proclaim Your Word in this fallen world.
- MEN – Give them courage to announce Your Word of judgment to trouble the complacent and Your Word of grace to comfort the distressed. Protect them from misguided court decisions and violent terrorists. Move the leaders of nations to work for compassionate and orderly societies and peaceful relations to their neighbor states.**
- ☐ Savior in heaven, hear us as we pray for those who, like David, call out to You in their distress. Listen to their cries for help.
- WOMEN – Give them patience and endurance in long-term illnesses, false imprisonments, stressful jobs, and vain accusations. Lift up the light of Your face upon them, O Lord. Grant them health and safety, justice and community, that they may be able to lie down and sleep in peace.**
- ☐ O Holy Spirit, hear us as we pray for all people who, like those in Paul's day, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- ☐ **Open their eyes to see that their end is destruction, that their god is their belly, and that their glory is their shame. Then, open their ears to hear the Gospel, that they may look heavenward instead of setting their minds on earthly things. May they join us when Christ returns in glory.**
- ☐ Compassionate God, hear us as we pray for caregivers, medical professionals, relief agencies, members of law enforcement, and the armed forces, and all who, like Jesus, are undeterred by opposition as they continue in their mission and ministry.
- ☐ **May their love and devotion be reminders of Your grace offered to all. May their determination reflect Your sure promises. By their actions, may many be gathered under Your protecting arms of mercy.**

**P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**C** **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.**

## Forever

1. Give thanks to the Lord our God and King,  
His love endures forever.  
For He is good He is above all things,  
His love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise

2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,  
His love endures forever.  
For the life that's been reborn,  
His love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!

**CHORUS: Forever God is faithful,  
Forever God is strong,  
Forever God is with us,  
forever, forever!**

3. From the rising to the setting sun,  
His love endures forever.  
And by the grace of God we will carry on,  
His love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!  
**CHORUS**

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## Benediction and Dismissal

**P** With David, we respond to God's grace and mercy:

**C** **In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you in the shelter of His wings. The Lord make His face shine on you and lift your eyes heavenward. The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

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

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