



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

February 18, 2026 7pm

† Ash Wednesday Service †

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



Lenten Midweek Series – Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus

Tonight's Theme – *The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries*

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

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734.453.5252 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

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.

As We Gather – We are beginning Lent, the forty days we set aside to focus on our Lord’s Passion as we lead up to Easter. The Lord calls us to “Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning,” and Joel calls for a “solemn assembly” (Joel 2:12, 15). It is time to “to receive the grace of God” (2 Corinthians 6:1). And it is a time for active dialogue between each of us and our Father in heaven, as Jesus instructs in the Gospel. The readings from Exodus, which shall guide our worship through Lent, though, also provide us with Good News. We do not deserve it, but God hears and answers our cries. Be ready to pray; be ready to thank our gracious God.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – “Hills and Valleys” sung by Esther Kaufmann

1. I've walked among the shadows
 You wiped my tears away
 I've felt the pain of heartbreak
 And I've seen the brighter days
 And I've prayed prayers to heaven
 From my lowest place
 And I have held Your blessings
 God You give and take away
 No matter what I have Your grace is enough
 No matter where I am I'm standing in Your love

***CHORUS: On the mountains I will bow my life
 To the one who set me there
 In the valley I will lift my eyes
 To the one who sees me there
 When I'm standing on the mountain
 I didn't get there on my own
 When I'm walking through the valley
 I know I am not alone
 (You're) God of the hills and valleys
 Hills and valleys
 God of the hills and valleys
 And I am not alone***

2. I've watched my dreams get broken
 In You I hope again
 No matter what I know
 I'm safe inside Your hands CHORUS
 BRIDGE: Father You give and take away
 Every joy and every pain
 Through it all You will remain over it all
 Interlude: On the mountains I will bow my life
 In the valley I will lift my eyes
 Oh... ***CHORUS***

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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession

Psalm 130

- P** Our faith in God is tested when it seems He is not listening to us. The problem is not how God answers but in our limited confession and our failure to totally trust Him for all we need. But God is listening and will answer! Let us now go to our gracious God in confession, expecting Him to hear our cries:

Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

- C** **O Lord, hear my voice!
 Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

- P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

- P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;
C **my soul waits for the Lord
 more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

- P** O Israel, hope in the LORD!
C **For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
 and with Him is plentiful redemption.
 And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Imposition of Ashes (*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. You may have them placed on your forehead or extend your hand to be placed on the top of your hand.*)

- Symbolizing our repentance, come forward as ushered to receive a cross of ashes.
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Amen.

Suggested Personal Prayer to say silently in your seat after the imposition of ashes upon your forehead.

"Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant me the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen"

Music to sing during Imposition of Ashes

Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

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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Absolution

P In His great mercy, God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who took all our sins to the cross. In His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen. Thanks be to God.

Introit

Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12, 17

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
C **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
- I** *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,*
II *and cleanse me from my sin!*
- I** *For I know my transgressions,*
II *and my sin is ever before me.*
- I** *Create in me a clean heart, O God,*
II *and renew a right spirit within me.*
- I** *Cast me not away from Your presence,*
II *and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.*
- C** **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
C **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
- C** **Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;**
- 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

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD,

weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,

"Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

P who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Joel 2:13b

P Return to the LORD, your God,

C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Reading

Exodus 2:23–25

P During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – “The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries”

1. God heard and answered the cries of his people in Egypt.
2. God hears and answers the cries of his people today.
3. God Has Heard Your Cries and Has Answered Them in Christ Jesus.

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.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at 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 all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.
- C** **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**
- P** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.
- C** **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**
- P** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.
- C** **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**
- P** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.
- C** **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**
- P** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.
- C** **Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**
- P** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.
- C** **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**
- P** All these things we bring before Your throne, confident that we have a God who hears and answers our cries.
- C** **Amen.**

Preface

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

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

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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.

- C** **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 † 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 † 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.
- C** **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

Lamb of God

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God CHORUS

2. Your gift of Love they crucified
They laughed and scorned him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God CHORUS

***CHORUS: Oh Lamb of God,
Sweet Lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God***

3. I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God CHORUS

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Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just a I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Above All

Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what You're worth

***CHORUS: Crucified, laid behind the stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all***

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Benediction

P The Lord, who has heard your cries for mercy, bless you.

The Lord, who sent His only-begotten Son into the flesh to die and rise for you, bless you.

The Lord, who has worked faith in your hearts to hear and respond to His answers, bless you today, tomorrow, and forever.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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