Lord of Life MOVING faith forward

A Wide Embrace by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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Loved by God,
Sent to Serve.

4th Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting 10

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* **arr. James Pethel**

Confession and Forgiveness ELW p. 94

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

Gathering Song: *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing* ELW 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813 Public Domain

Greeting ELW p. 203

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie ELW p. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day ELW p. 205

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of
Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. 10 While the Israelites were
camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the
month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they
ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna
ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had
manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

2 **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

4 **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

6 **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

8 **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

10 **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

[11] Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

[16] From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! [18]All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; [19]that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. [20]So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21]For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ELW p. 205

Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[1]Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] [2]And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." [3]So he told them this parable: [11b] "There was a man who had two sons. [12]The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. [13]A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. [14]When he had spent

everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. [15]So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. [16] He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. [17]But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! [18]I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; [19]I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' [20]So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. [21]Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' [22]But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. [23]And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; [24]for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.
[25]"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. [26]He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. [27]He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' [28]Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. [29]But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. [30]But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' [31]Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. [32]But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon **The Rev. Karla Wildberger**

Hymn of the Day: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* **ELW 608**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **Refrain**

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

Text and Music: Will L. Thompson 1847 – 1909 Public Domain

Apostles' Creed ELW p. 206

Let us profess our faith together:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

…God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**
…who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace ELW p. 206

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **ELW 188**

Thank you for your gifts and offerings. Whether you give electronically, or by cash or check in an envelope, we greatly appreciate your continued support of God's ministries.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.
Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving **ELW p. 206**

The Lord be with you.	**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.	**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy **ELW p. 207**

Thanksgiving at the Table **ELW p. 207**

Lord's Prayer **ELW p. 208**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God — ELW 208

Communion Hymn: *Jesus Messiah*

1 He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

2 His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus x2

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Post-Communion Blessing

…Amen.

Prayer after Communion — ELW p. 208

Let us pray.
Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Blessing — ELW p. 209

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* — ELW 763

1 My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text and Music: Robert Lowry 1826-1899 Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* — arr. Jan Sanborn

Announcements

This Week at Lord of Life

Sunday, Mar. 30	8:00 AM	Worship in-person
	9:15 AM	Faith Formation/Adult Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Worship in-person or online
Wednesday, April 2	6:00 PM	Midweek Lent Worship in-person or online
		Worship and Music meeting
		NOW Band practice

To: Members of Lord of Life

The Church Council would like to update you on the Solar Project, which many of you have heard about. We have had several members who have said they would make a special donation for the installation of solar energy for the church. The council has voted to go forward with the project (still doing some investigating) under the premise that the project will be completely funded by these designated donations for the solar project. NO DOLLARS WILL COME FROM THE GENERAL FUND OR THE SHARE YOUR ABUNDANCE FUND.
Any questions or comments, please contact me or a member of the council.
Respectfully, Jim Gilbertson

Adult Bible Study

We now have an opportunity to share in Adult Bible Study during the Faith Formation time Sunday mornings between services (9:15 am) in the conference room. Thank you to Astine Bose for coordinating/leading this endeavor.

Midweek Lenten Services

Please join us for midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays: April 2, & 9 at 6 pm. The theme for this season will be "Prayer Around the Cross: For the Healing of the Nations". We will focus on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-11). We will be doing what they call "listening to the world … we will hear something from the news … reminding us of persons and places that are in need, but they also help us hear scripture as a living word spoken into and for the sake of the suffering world." ("Holden: Prayer Around the Cross" by Susan Briehl and Tom Witt, pg. 12-13) And we will spend time, praying around the cross which was lovingly made by Mark Oehlert.

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Administrative Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Worship Online

YouTube Channel: Lord of Life Lutheran Church; website: lordoflife.online
or Facebook: Lord of Life Lutheran Dubuque

This Week's Worship Servants

Readers:	8:00 Susan Hansen	10:30 Ryan Bose
Ushers:	8:00 Don & Kayleen Backhaus	10:30
Tech/PPT:	8:00	10:30

Acknowledgments

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