FAMILY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

"Possessed by Sin and Bound by Death"

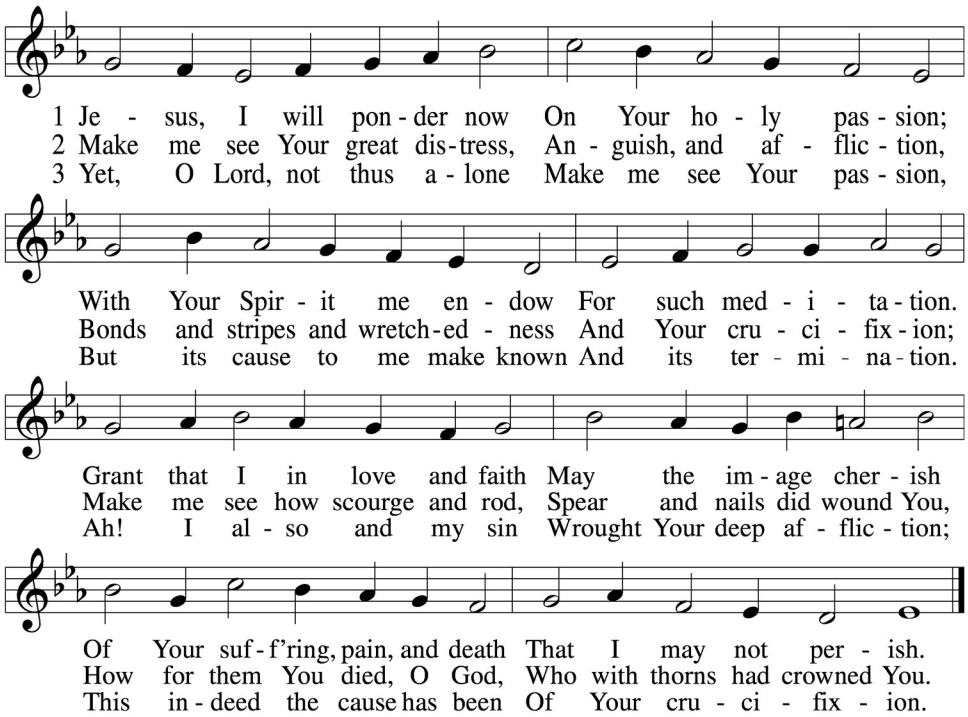
SECOND MID-WEEK SERVICE IN LENT

Reflections on Hymn #556: "Dear Christian's, One and All, Rejoice"

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

PASTOR'S GREETING

ENTRANCE HYMN **JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW** ***LSB 440 STS.1-3***



Tune and text: Public domain

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.**

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.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

PSALMODY *Psalm 130*

P: 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? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

C: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope; 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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT 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!

EPISTLE READING

R: The Epistle Reading is from the Book of Romans 3:9-20.

R: What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

> "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, *not even one*."
>
> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."
"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."
"Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.",
"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF THE DAY — IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY — *LSB 427*

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RESPONSORY — *LSB 230*

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

The Holy Gospel

P: A Reading of the Holy Gospel According to St John 8:31-38

C: Glory to You O Lord.

P: So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and *you will know the truth*, and the *truth will set you free*."

They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

P: This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

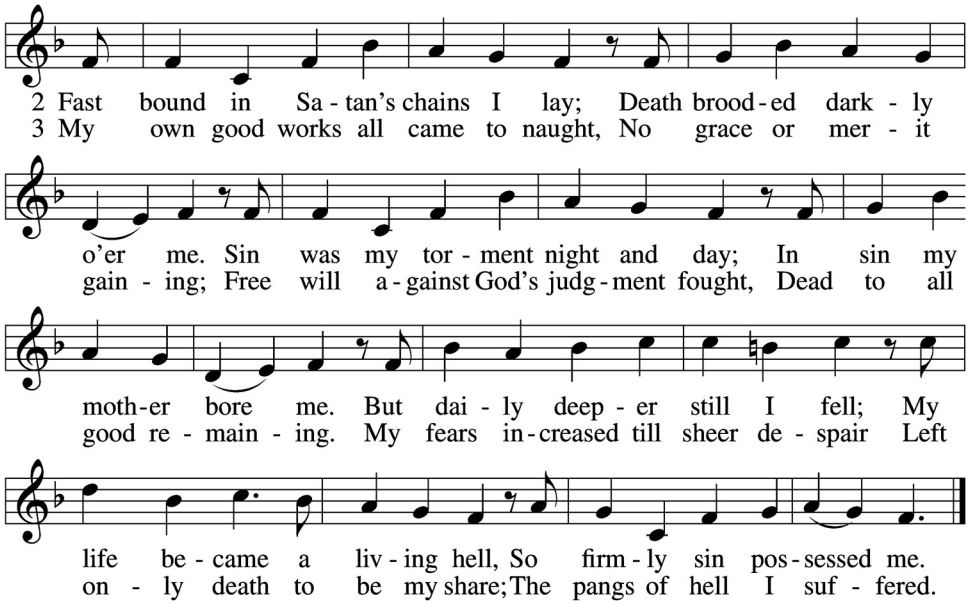
C: Praise to You O Christ.

The Apostles Creed

All: 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.

SERMON HYMN AND REFLECTION

DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE *LSB 556, STS.2–3*



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SERMON *"POSSESSED BY SIN AND BOUND BY DEATH"*

LITANY FOR LENT *LSB 249*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our Synodical President, Rev. Matthew Harrison; our District President Rev. Jameson Hardy; our Circuit Visitor Rev. Nick Wirtz; and for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For President Joseph Biden; Governor Doug Ducey; for all public servants; for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C: To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: *Let us pray*: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 252*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

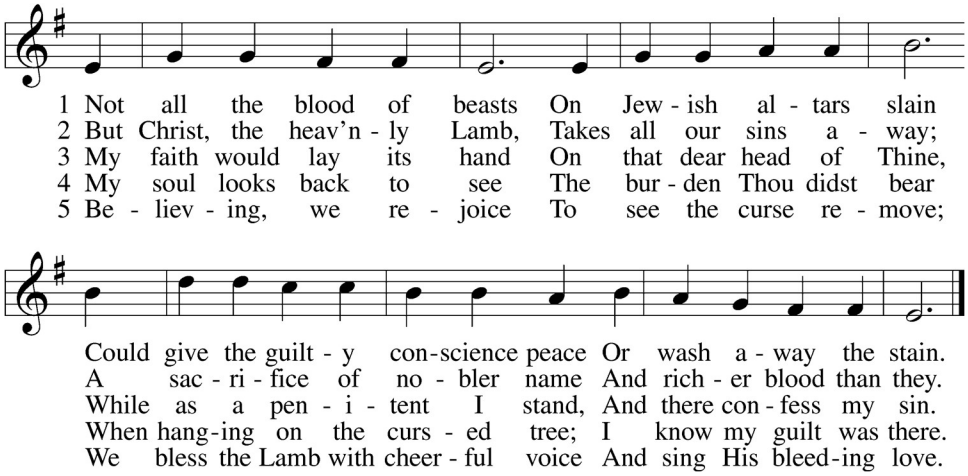
C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 252*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS *LBS 431*



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For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of March 7th:

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social:

@KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This week on KFUO.org, begin the book of Philippians on **Thy Strong Word** (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), hear Midweek Lenten service and organ recital on March 10th at 11:00 a.m. CT, and hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (March 9th at 2:00 p.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

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480-759-4047

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Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Church Office Administrator

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

2/24– 3/3

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Wednesday (March 3)

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols and procedures.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer