

Look to Jesus and Live

March 8, 2026



Third Sunday
in Lent

Welcome, guests! We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be more than happy to assist you. This folder includes all the details about our services, with the congregational responses indicated by indented, bold letters. Please take a moment to complete the guest register in the church entrance; it will be used solely by the pastor and the elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: The light of the world brings sight to the blind and judgment to the blinded. Faith means seeing Jesus as Savior: like the bronze serpent, we look on him and live (Verse of the Day). We were born in the blindness of sin, and without the light of Christ, we could not find a way to safety. Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Yet for those who refuse to see their Savior in Christ, the blindness of unbelief remains. He gives gracious sight to the blind who trust in him; he gives blinding judgment on those who reject him; finally, he displays the work of God in the lives of those who now walk in the light of Christ.

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#221

BLESSED JESUS AT YOUR WORD

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
 Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
 peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
 low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.
 Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.



C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us."

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

The musical notation is a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, containing the melody for the word "men." The lyrics are: "C: A - men."

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

The musical notation consists of eight staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of"

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

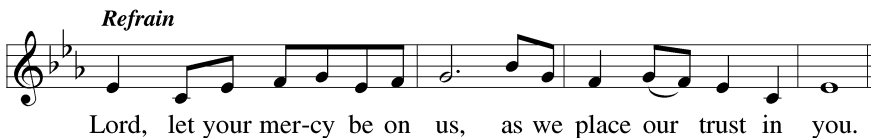
ISAIAH 42:14 – 21

Our Gospel tells us of two kinds of blindness. One cannot see a way to salvation; the other sees the Way, but rejects him. Here, the Lord makes promises to both groups. To his helplessly blind children who cannot find a way out, he promises certain deliverance and rescue. God himself will lead them to safety and will turn their darkness into light. But to those who reject the true God and look to idols, God promises judgment!

I have been silent for a long time. I have kept still. I have restrained myself. But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream. I will gasp and pant. I will dry up mountains and hills. I will make all their grass wither. I will turn rivers into islands. I will dry up pools. I will lead the blind on a way they do not know. Along paths, they do not know I will direct them. Ahead of them, I will turn darkness into light and rough places into level ground. These are the things I will accomplish for them. I will not abandon them.

They will be turned back and completely disgraced—those who trust in an idol, those who say to molten images, “You are our gods.”

You deaf ones, listen! You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see! Who is as blind as my servant? Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent? Who is as blind as my associate, as blind as the servant of the Lord? You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe. Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear. Because of his own righteousness, the Lord was pleased to make his law great and glorious.



Refrain

O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;*
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,*
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me,*
my heart within me is dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quickly, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.
Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 5:8 – 14

Notice what Paul says. He does not say that we were once in the dark and now we are in the light. No, he states that we were darkness and now we are light. Our conversion involved a complete transformation of who we are, and as a result, it will lead to a complete transformation of what we do.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. Therefore, it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

VERSE OF THE DAY

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14,15)

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1 – 7, 13 – 17, 32 – 39

In God's plan, there are no coincidences, and there is no karma. The man was born blind not because of his parents' sins, nor was he lying in Jesus' path by accident. Both events occurred so that God's work could be revealed in the life of this man, who was doubly blind: he could not see Jesus physically or spiritually.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God's works might be revealed in connection with him. I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World." After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man's eyes. "Go," Jesus told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. ...

They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man told them. "I washed, and now I see." Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others were saying, "How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?" There was division among them, so they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?"

The man replied, "He is a prophet. ... From the beginning of time, no one has ever heard of anyone opening the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" "Who is he, sir," the man replied, "that I may believe in him?" Jesus answered, "You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" and he knelt down and worshipped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#113

UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, See, world, your Lord sus -
 2 How God at our trans - gres - sion To an - ger gives ex -
 3 'Tis I who should be smit - ten, My doom should here be
 4 A crown of thorns you're wear - ing, My shame and scorn you're
 5 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to you for -



pend - ed; Your Sav - ior yields his breath. The Prince of
 pres - sion, How loud his thun - ders roll, How fear - ful -
 writ - ten; Bound hand and foot in hell. The fet - ters
 bear - ing That I might ran - somed be. My bonds - man,
 ev - er; I am no long - er mine. To you I



life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly giv - en
 ly he smites him, How sore - ly he re - quites him -
 and the scourg - ing, The floods a - round you surg - ing,
 ev - er will - ing, My place with pa - tience fill - ing,
 glad - ly ten - der All that my life can ren - der



To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
 All this your suf - f'ring teach my soul.
 'Tis I who have de - served them well.
 From sin and guilt has made me free.
 And all I have to you re - sign.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.

Tune: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN (776 778) Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517, alt.

SERMON TEXT:**JOHN 9:1 – 7, 13 – 17, 32 – 39****SERMON THEME:****BORN BLIND AND RESTORED BY FAITH IN JESUS****CREATE IN ME**

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR LENT

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love, we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

SILENT PRAYERS

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Please Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#372

I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry
 4 I long to be like Je - sus: Meek, lov - ing,



Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us From
 dwells in him. He heals all my dis - eas - es; My
 soul of mine. His right hand me em - brac - es; I
 low - ly, mild; I long to be like Je - sus, The



the ac - curs - ed load. I bring my guilt to Je - sus
 soul he does re - deem. I lay my griefs on Je - sus,
 in his arms re - cline. I love the name of Je - sus,
 Fa - ther's ho - ly child. I long to be with Je - sus



To wash my crim - son stains White in his
 My bur - dens and my cares; He from them
 Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord; Like fra - grance
 A - mid the heav'n - ly thron'g To sing with



blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.
 saints his prais - es, To learn the an - gels' song.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.
 Tune: AURELIA (76 76 D) Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is good and right so to do.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

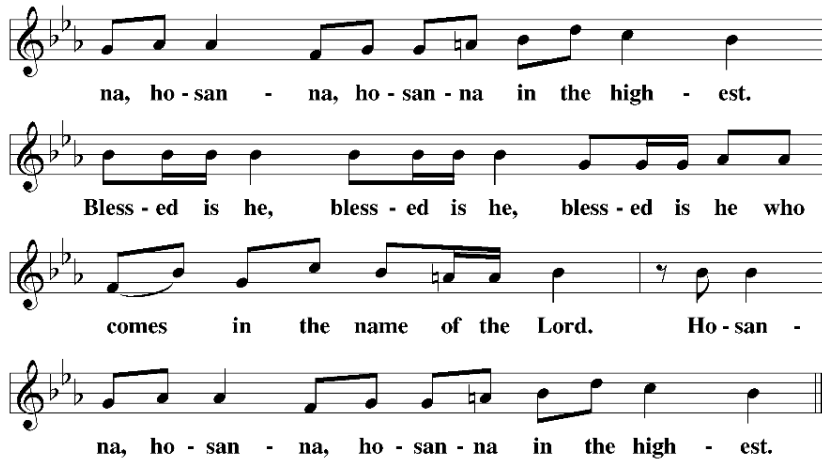
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

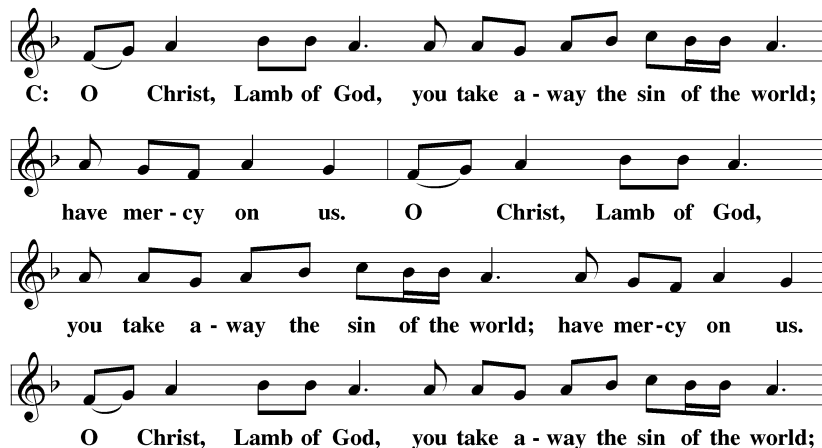


C: A - men.

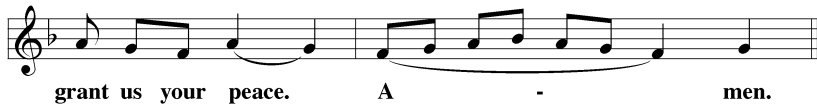
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

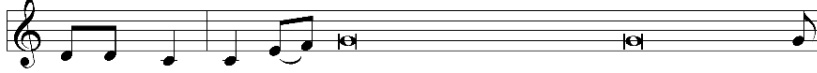
DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it, you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN:

RISE! TO ARMS! WITH PRAYER EMPLOY YOU



1 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to
2 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! He leads a soul to
3 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! He gives this charge to
4 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for
5 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen -



me. My eyes once closed in blind - ness Are o - pened
me, A soul in bit - ter an - guish, One need - ing
me: To serve the best I'm a - ble, What - e'er the
me. From door to door I wit - ness To share my
cy! Each mo - ment souls are dy - ing; Soon comes e -



now to see That I my - self was help - less To
to be free. The gift I have to of - fer Is
call may be. Thus hand in hand with oth - ers Who
Sav - ior's plea; Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, No
ter - ni - ty, And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, This



live e - ter - nal - ly, But, dy - ing, Christ did
Christ, my Lord's de - cree That all have been for -
share the gos - pel key We spread the gos - pel
word on bend - ed knee, Be - yond the sim - ple
is my hum - ble plea: Pre - pare me for my



save me, And now he calls for me!
giv - en— My Sav - ior calls for me!
tid - ings— My Sav - ior calls for me!
gos - pel— My Sav - ior calls for me!
mis - sion For you are call - ing me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943. © 1993 John C. Lawrenz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work, receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Season: Please mark your calendars to join us for this time of preparation. We invite you to join us on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. for our midweek Lenten services; this year, our theme is “It is finished.” We will explore the fulfillment of the Old Testament book of Zechariah and consider the Apostle’s Creed.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: We continue our focus on the Pauline letters with Galatians. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. We hope you find this Bible study enlightening! Feel free to bring your questions. You may come and go as needed. Reading is optional, and questions are always welcome.

Passion of the Christ: Mark your calendar, Pastor Emmons and Tammi will be hosting movie night on March 27 at 6 pm. We will watch “The Passion of the Christ.”

Holy Week: Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 29, Maundy Thursday on April 2, Good Friday on April 3, and Easter on April 5. Our midweek services will be at 5:30 pm, with the Sunday services at 10:30. We will have our communion service on Maundy Thursday; consider scheduling with Pastor Emmons to receive private absolution during that day.

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