

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Red Letter Challenge – "Forgiveness" Week.

Mar 15 – Lenten Meal and Worship (6 & 7 PM respectively)

Mar 18 – Trivia Night @BSLC Basement - Doors open 5:15 PM

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 113

L: Praise the LORD!

C: Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

**L: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth
and forevermore!**

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

**L: The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!**

C: Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

L: who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

**C: He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

L: to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

**C: He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.**

ALL: Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Let us confess our sins before our compassionate God.

L: Holy and merciful Father,

C: we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature – prone to evil and slothful in good – and all our shortcomings and offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us. Teach us to hate our willful rebellion. Cleanse us from our secret faults. Motivate us to serve You by serving others in the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Make us worthy of Your commendation when we enter into Your presence and hear You say, “Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of Your Master” (Matt 25:23). Send Your purifying grace into our hearts, that we may henceforth live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Servant-King. Amen.

L: May God almighty, who freely and daily offers us forgiveness, who sent His Son into the world to save sinners, bring us His pardon and peace, now and forever. God, who has called [us] into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Serve the Lord with gladness; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE “That’s Why We Praise Him”

**He came to live, live a perfect life.
He came to be the Living Word our light.
He came to die so we’d be reconciled.
He came to rise to show His power and might.**

Chorus:

**That’s why we praise Him, that’s why we sing.
That’s why we offer Him our everything.
That’s why we bow down and worship this King
Cause He gave His everything. Cause He gave His everything.**

**He came to live, live again in us.
He came to be our conquering King and Friend.
He came to heal and show the lost ones His love.
He came to go prepare a place for us. (Chorus 2x)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray together:

C: Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your gracious favor, and further us with Your continued help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You, we may glorify Your holy name and finally, by Your mercy, obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The OLD TESTAMENT Reading for our **RED LETTER CHALLENGE SERIES is from
1 Samuel chapter 12. (12:19–25)**

And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.”

And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

VERSE

L: But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

C: and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 10:35-45

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

And they said to him, "We are able."

And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them,

"You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 842 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

**Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hopes fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.

SERMON “Serving Yourself or Serving Yourself” Pastor Vern

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES’ CREED *stand*

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

C: Lord Jesus, You served us by giving yourself to us and in Your teaching encouraged us to serve others as an act of worshipping You. Continue to renew in us steadfast hearts that follow after You. Disrupt the ugly parts of in us, the selfish, prideful, judgmental elements of our sinful flesh, that hinder the emergence of the Spirit. Pour out Your Spirit into us and fill us completely. Then pour out our lives in service that we may be filled up MORE with You! Less of us, and more of You, always.

L: Thank You for Your patience, especially when we truly do not WANT to obey Your leading, or when we struggle with serving in love. In our spirit we desire Your servant's heart, so motivate and develop in us a constant desire to serve in love by Your grace and compassion toward us. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

P: Savior of the nations, the world in which we now live is in constant trouble. Give us the willingness to serve You when Christian care is in the scope of our influence and concern. Help us to be respectful and helpful during our stay on earth, that Your name may be praised on account of the good deeds of Your people whose citizenship is in heaven. Be with all who are in authority over us in this world. Grant to all good government, that every nation may live in peace and the Gospel have free course throughout the world. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant us, Your Church, servant hearts as we care for one another... for those in our community, our church, and our families at home and far away. Help us to care for the homebound, the sick, and injured, the disabled and depressed, the lonely and those who grieve any loss. We lift up our Prayer list to Your throne of mercy and ask that You give Your aid to all in need of healing and comfort according to Your will... To that list we add, Gary Benson, Tami Martin's father awaiting results from medical testing. And we ask that You give strength of faith and confidence in Your loving care to Tammy (Mayo) Ellington who begins chemo treatment this Tuesday. We thank You also for keeping safe Pastor Mark Wiesner's 90 year old mother Joyce Wiesner and his sister, Debra Ettel, during, and after, a serious car accident. Remember in Your mercy also, Bryan Henrichs, Carrie Boulanger's Brother-in-law, recovering from heart surgery and Karen Anders who will be going into surgery this Tuesday. In life and in death, O Lord, show us Your glory! Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Remember O Lord, Your servants, Dan Bowman, Bill Gass, Harry Russell, Jayni Lintvedt, Laura Schutte Vied, Emily Garcia, Ben Siron, Larry Gruhn, RJ Kinsella, Jessica Schmidt and Karen Anders who celebrate the life You have given them and the blessings You have bestowed on them over the years. Make their special day, a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing in Your loving care; Lord in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught and enables us to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

**All: 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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

Numbers 6:24–26

- P:** The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C:** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 848 “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”

Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose
Ev’ry gift that You impart.

Still Your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,
Till Your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.

**Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good-will and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!