

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

RED LETTER CHALLENGE Thanks to all who took up the challenges of Jesus!

Mar 25 – Last Lenten Midweek Service: March 29 (meal: 6pm - worship: 7pm)

Apr 02 – Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday

Apr 06 - 7 – Holy Thursday & Good Friday (7 pm)

Apr 08 – Easter Egg Hunt along with Karen Anders and her puppet friends (10 am)

Apr 09 – Easter Sunday (9:30 am) – Elders’ Pancake Breakfast begins at 7:30 am.

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 105:1–6 (Tell of All His Wondrous Works)

L: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

C: Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

L: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

C: Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

L: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

C: O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

ALL: 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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

**L: Lord God, our maker and our Redeemer,
This is Your world and we are Your people.**

C: Come among us and save us.

L: We have willfully misused Your gifts of creation;

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid.

C; Lord, have mercy.

L: We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Let us return to the Lord our God and say to Him:

C: Abba, Father, we have sinned against heaven and against You. We are not worthy to be called Your children. We turn to You again. Lord, have mercy on us, bring us back to Yourself as those who were once dead but now have life through Christ our Lord.

L: Our God of mercy loved us and the whole world so much that He sent His Son to be our Savior, to forgive us our sins, make us holy to serve Him in the world, and equip us to be His witnesses. Receive His love and forgiveness, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "Pass it On" (video)

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 1:4-10 (The Call of Jeremiah)

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

**"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."**

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me,

**“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the LORD.”**

**Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth.
And the LORD said to me,**

**“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.
See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING Acts 1:4-8 (You Shall be My Witnesses)

**And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem,
but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;
for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not
many days from now.”**

**So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time
restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know
times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will
receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my
witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the
earth.”**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20 (As you go... make disciples)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 28th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 837 “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, The love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. Refrain**

**All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain**

**Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain**

SERMON “You, yes YOU, Shall be My Witnesses - Jesus” Pastor Vern

CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand*

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.

OFFERING (hymn is sung as the Offering is presented to the altar)

HYMN No. 781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Final petition)

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught 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*

HYMN No. 922 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My Children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

SENDING

L: Go in Peace to Love and serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!