



Rethinking Devoted Commitment

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17/18, 2024

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

CURRENT SERIES: RETHINKING RELIGION

Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Even our own assumptions sometimes shade our perspective as Christians.

In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turn common assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it “*Christ*-ianity.” So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

TODAY: RETHINKING DEVOTED COMMITMENT

Religious sociologists sometimes divide Christians into two groups: *committed* Christians and *cultural* Christians. The former are active in a congregation, pray regularly, and read Scripture. The latter perhaps have some Christian beliefs, yet they are not interested in church involvement or the Christian life.

There is indeed a devoted commitment at the center of true Christianity, but it is not man's commitment to God. Instead, at the heart of Christianity we find God's devotion and commitment to us. It is a devoted commitment so strong that it put God on the cross.

STAND

HYMN

Draw Us to Thee



1 Draw us to thee, for then shall we walk in thy
3 Draw us to thee; O grant that we may walk the
5 Draw us to thee un - ceas - ing - ly; in - to thy



steps for - ev - er and has - ten on where thou art
road to heav - en! Di - rect our way lest we should
king - dom take us. Let us for - e'er thy glo - ry



gone to be with thee, dear Sav - ior.
stray and from thy paths be driv - en.
share; thy saints and joint heirs make us.

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

Amen.

OPENING RESPONSES

Rethinking Devoted Commitment

The LORD says to his people:

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

Into your hand I commit my spirit.

You have redeemed me, O LORD, the God of truth.

Commit your way to the LORD.

Trust in him, and he will act.

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...

As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

BE SEATED

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1–7

In devoted commitment, the LORD promises his people he will be right there with them.

^{43:1} But now this is what the LORD says,
the LORD who created you, O Jacob,
the LORD who formed you, O Israel.

Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

²When you cross through the waters, I will be with you.

When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away.

When you walk through fire, you will not be burned,
and the flame will not set you on fire.

³Because I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior,
I gave Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴Because you are precious and honored in my eyes,
and I myself love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
and peoples in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not be afraid, because I am with you.
From the east I will bring your offspring,
and from the west I will gather you.
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them back!"
and to the south, "Do not hold them."
Bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
everyone I created for my glory,
everyone I formed,
yes, everyone I have made.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7–9

Jesus submitted to the cross out of his devoted commitment to us.

⁷In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. ⁹After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him...

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me



1 Je - sus, your bound - less love to me No thought
 2 Oh, grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell
 3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt -
 4 In suf - f'ring be your love my peace; In weak -



can reach, no tongue de - clare. Dwell in my heart e -
 but your pure love a - lone; Oh, may your love pos -
 less - ly to you as - pire. Oh, may your love my
 ness be your love my pow'r; And when the storms of



ter - nal - ly, And reign with - out a ri - val there.
 sess me whole, My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown!
 hope re - new, Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire!
 life shall cease, O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour



To you a - lone, dear Lord, I live;
 All cold - ness from my heart re - move;
 And day and night be all my care
 Be then my rod and staff and guide



My - self to you, dear Lord, I give.
 My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
 To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
 And draw me safe - ly to your side.

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours.

³¹“Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

³³He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

What Do You Want to See in Jesus?

- 1. See Jesus glorified at his cross.**
- 2. See Jesus glorified in your life.**

STAND

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 truly 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.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

OFFERING SONG

The Power of the Cross

*Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary
tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
nailed to the cross of wood.*

*Refrain: This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
took the blame, bore the wrath.
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

*Oh to see the pain written on your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought every evil deed
crowning your blood stain brow.*

Refrain

*Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
quakes as its maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
"Finished!" the victory cry.*

Refrain

*Oh to see my name written in the wounds.
For through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
won through your selfless love!*

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You have called us by name. You formed and made us. You created us for your glory. You have told us not to be afraid, for you are with us. Give us confidence in your presence and in your commitment to care.

You are the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior.

Prepare us to give reason for the hope we have. Teach us to know Jesus so that we can also glorify your name through our words and actions, and help others to see him.

Direct those in government, the president, congress, and the governor and assemblies of our state. Help them carry out the duties entrusted to them that they govern for the good of your people and the advancement of your kingdom.

You are the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior.

Your Son Jesus knew suffering, and he offered up prayers and petitions to you, Father. Strengthen those who suffer injustice, who are being treated badly by others, falsely accused, or suffer for no reason of their own.

You heard the cries of your Son and raised him from death. Hear our prayers for those who struggle with pain or sickness, and those who carry the burdens of life with troubled hearts. Give relief and rest to your people in your time.

You are the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Almighty God, your dear Son did not ascend to joy until he first suffered pain, and did not enter into glory before he was crucified. Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it as the true way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

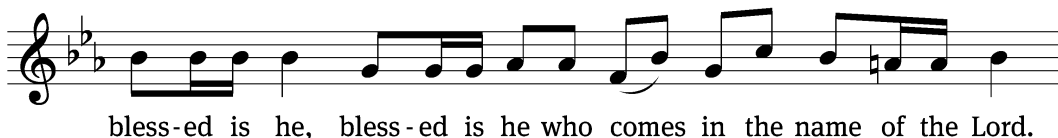
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

BE SEATED

We sing the distribution hymn stanzas as time allows, as determined by our accompanist.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let Me Be Yours Forever



1 Let me be yours for - ev - er, my faith - ful God and Lord;
2 Lord Je - sus, my sal - va - tion, my light, my life di - vine,
3 O gra - cious Ho - ly Spir - it, my com - fort - er and guide,



let me for-sake you nev - er nor wan - der from your Word.
my on - ly con - so - la - tion, to you I all re - sign,
grant that in Je - sus' mer - it I al - ways may con - fide,



Lord, do not let me wa - ver but give me stead-fast-ness, and
for you have dear-ly bought me with blood and bit - ter pain. Let
him to the end con - fess - ing whom I have known by faith. Give



for such grace and fa - vor your ho - ly name I'll bless.
me, since you have sought me, e - ter-nal life ob - tain.
me your con-stant bless - ing and grant a Chris - tian death.

O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, O Foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Grant me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing things that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 Lord, let me win my foes with kind - ly words and ac - tions,



who good and per - fect gifts in mer - cy are be - stow - ing,
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing,
 grant that no i - dle words may from my lips be fall - ing,
 and let me find good friends for coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 that I do what I should while trust - ing you to bless
 but when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
 Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - hurt by sin.
 the out - come for my good, for you must give suc - cess.
 then fill my words with grace lest I of - fend the weak.
 and by your Spir - it's might to live in peace with all.

STAND

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. 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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

BE SEATED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Preacher: Pastor Dave Nottling (Monday: Pastor Ryan Kolander from Riverview Lutheran)

Scripture Readers: Pete Neuberger (8:00 AM); Chris Zimmerman (10:45 AM)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

Draw Us to Thee (CW 700)

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Friedrich Funcke, 1642–1699 Tune: As hymnodus sacer, Leipzig, 1625 Text and tune: Public domain.

Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me (CW [93] 479)

Text and tune: public domain. Setting: © 1990 Ronald L. Schilling.

The Power of the Cross

Text and tune: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). Used by permission CCLI no. 1180837.

Let Me Be Yours Forever (CW 715)

Text: tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 1): Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–1592; (sts. 2–3): Gesang-Büchlein, Rudolstadt, 1688 Tune: Musika Deutsch, Nürnberg, 1532 Text and tune: Public domain.

O God, My Faithful God (CW 740)

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693 Text and tune: Public domain.

Prayer of the Church

Text: Reprinted from Praying with the Readings: . . . Year B, copyright © 2022, 2023 Paul C. Stratman. Used by permission.

Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. and The New International Version®, NIV® copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® All rights reserved.

Service based on Setting One from Christian Worship. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

CONTACT US

Dave Backus, Pastor

920.716.7987

Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher

920.858.3933

Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager

920.749.9744

Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



ETERNAL-LOVE.ORG



WEE-LOVE.ORG