

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

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9:15 AM - March 30, 2025 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

ALIVE! Worship Service

INTRODUCTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

How Can I Be Free from Sin?



1 How can I be free from sin? lead me to the cross of
3 How can I know peace with-in? lead me to the cross of
5 How can I live day by day? lead me to the cross of



Je - sus; from the guilt, the pow'r, the pain,
Je - sus; sing a song of joy a - gain,
Je - sus; fol - low - ing his nar - row way,



lead me to the cross of Je - sus.
lead me to the cross of Je - sus.
lead me to the cross of Je - sus.



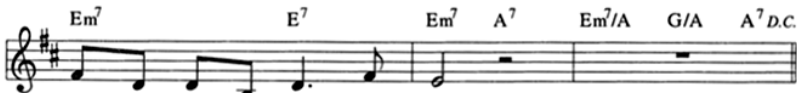
2 There's no oth - er way, no price that I could pay,
4 Flow - ing from a - bove, all - for - giv - ing love,



simp - ly to the cross I cling.
from the Fa - ther's heart to me.



This is all I need, this is all I plead,
What a gift of grace, his own righ - teous - ness,



that his blood was shed for me.
cloth - ing me in pu - ri - ty.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

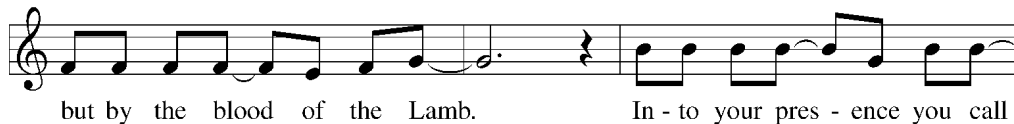
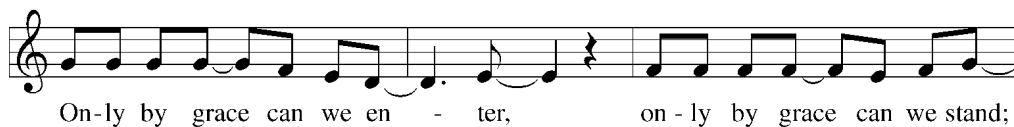


Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993
Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey
Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

PRECIOUS LORD
Irregular

Only By Grace



Text: Gerrit Gustafson

Music: ONLY BY GRACE, Gerrit Gustafson

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PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYERS

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

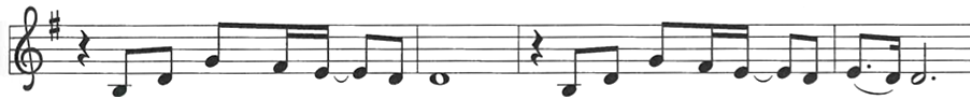
CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High



Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.



I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.



You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth



to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,



from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME

PM

A READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN

You Are My Hiding Place

*1**
Am Dm⁷ G G/B

You are my hid - ing place; you al - ways

Csus C G/B F/A Dm

fill my heart with songs of de - liv - er - ance. When -

Esus E ²Am

ev - er I am a - fraid I will trust in you,

Dm⁷ G G/B C G/B

I will trust in you. Let the weak say,

F/A Dm *To repeat* Esus E

"I am strong in the strength of the Lord."

Last time Esus E Am

strength of the Lord, I will trust in you."

**may be sung in canon*

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Wade Roof

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.
 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, O
 Lord, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) **Tomlin, Giglio & Newton**
/arr. Raney

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Repeat Chorus - twice

CCLI Song # 4768151
Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio
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DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

ALIVE! Musicians

Gale McLeod, Co-Director

Lyndsey Ebener

Steve Hamilton

Irelou Moye, Co-Director

Bradley Miller

Ricky Lusk

Beth Branham

David Moye

Julie Ann Payne

Leah Conrad

Erin Hall

Ed Redmond

Brett Ebener

Vaughn Hall

Roxanne Rich

Clark Ebener

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Worship Assistants

Communion assistant *Julianne Jones*
Lector *Nancy Smith*
Greeter *Grace Fuson*
Ushers *Lucky Jones, Todd Sease*
Livestream coordinators *Pam Hoskins, Kendrick Kerr*



The vases of greenery placed on the altar today are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of Jolene Marchant on her birthday, March 29th, by Charles & Mitzi Epting, Will, Kayley, Drew, Morgan, and Cole.

Today's bulletin covers are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of Veronica Hutto's birthday, which is March 28th, and in loving memory of Jack Thomas Cooper, Jr., whose birthday would have been March 28th, by Patsy Hutto. You both brighten my world and make my heart smile!



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Name: _____

LOGIC PUZZLE #6

Five friends went to the water park on a nice summer day. Figure out what part of the water park each child is at and what color swimsuit they are each wearing

| | Water Slide | Lazy River | Diving Board | Wave Pool | Fountains | Red | Blue | Black | Purple | Orange |
|--------|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----|------|-------|--------|--------|
| Katie | | | | | | | | | | |
| Josh | | | | | | | | | | |
| Olivia | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kevin | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mya | | | | | | | | | | |

| Red | | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Blue | | | | | |
| Black | | | | | |
| Purple | | | | | |
| Orange | | | | | |

- Olivia, who isn't wearing purple, doesn't like the water slide or wave pool.
- Kevin is either on the diving board or by the fountains.
- Mya, who's wearing red, isn't on the lazy river.
- The person wearing blue is on the diving board.
- Olivia is wearing orange, but is not by the fountains.
- One of the boys is in the wave pool and the other boy is wearing blue.
- Katie is not on the lazy river.
- The person in black is on the water slide.



ELVIS PRESLEY

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| ALL SHOOK UP | GIRL HAPPY | JAILHOUSE ROCK | PRISCILLA |
| BLUE HAWAII | GLADYS | KID GALAHAD | ROCK AND ROLL |
| BLUE SUEDE SHOES | GRACELAND | KING CREOLE | ROUSTABOUT |
| BURNING LOVE | GUITAR | LISA MARIE | SPINOUT |
| COLONEL PARKER | HOUND DOG | LOVE ME TENDER | SUN RECORDS |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | IN THE GHETTO | MEMPHIS | TUPELO |

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Michael Frye, Pierce Taylor, Rebecca McQuillen, Alice South, Jilda Ward, JoAnn Jones, Rue Jeffcoat, Michael Price, Evan Wise, Mary Caroline Gray, Britt Belch, Rex Bozard, Dottie Ford, Betty Jo Cato Stephen Roos, Dennis Shealy, Virginia Hamson, Drew McQuillen, Elizabeth Caulder, Rus Stilwell, Cory Smith.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Carol Busbee, Kay Smith, Sylvia Nelson, Nancy Stone-Collum, John Conrad, Carolyn Dufries
Lauren Addy, Linda Price, Kim Pittman, Lynda Mason, Bruce Merchant

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Grace Kelly, Al & Judy Jordan, Luther Swicegood, Sandra Baker, Drewby McQuillen, Mary Davis
Alice Pollock, Jimmy Williams, Mona Myers, Sadie Howard, Elmer Sundlie
Dennis Rybicki Jr., Emma Lou Easley, Paul Addy, Paul & Jeanie Jacobs, Herman Bouknight
Jane Sexton, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Dave Kohr, Helga Guyton, Judy Lazarczyk, Anne Powers, Mike Baxter, Allan Oliver
John Holland, Tonia Boland, Misty Smith, Pastor Kenneth Taylor, Salvador Brau
Johnny Smith, Pam Player, Beth Murphy, Anne Moye, Isabelle Sundlie

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, Alex Morris

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Zachery Gayden, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Caleb Neff

The Family Of:

Betty Wise, David Baldwin, Kenny Skenes

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music