

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Connecting People to Christ Now and Forever

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023; 11:00 am

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Thank you for worshipping at home with us at King of Kings! Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will draw you closer to the living God through your time of worship today and strengthen your connection to Christ our Savior.

PARTICIPATION IN HOLY COMMUNION

St. Paul urges us to examine ourselves before partaking of Holy Communion (*1 Cor. 1:28*). We urge you to do so, on the basis of these questions.

- 1. Do you believe you are a sinner? (*Romans 3:23*)**
- 2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (*Psalm 51:17*)**
- 3. Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior? (*Romans 5:6-8*)**
- 4. Do you intend with the power of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? (*Romans 6:1-4*)**
- 5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true Body and Blood along with the blessed bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins?**

In the Lutheran Church, Holy Communion, is considered a public confession of our common faith. If you are a visitor unfamiliar with the teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, out of respect for your own faith tradition, we invite you to receive a blessing by placing your right hand over your heart when you come forward.

Greeting

Opening Song

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

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

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

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

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

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below, will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

Words to verses by John Newton, additional lyrics by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
Music to verses is Traditional American melody; arrangement and chorus by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

P Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

C **Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.**

Confession and Absolution

P Dear friends in Christ, we know and admit that we are sinners. As we have been called into the presence of a Holy and righteous God it is only fitting that we first come to Him with repentant hearts. Nothing is hidden from God that will not be exposed. When we reflect honestly on our lives, we readily see that repentance and renewal can only come through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us then make confession to our gracious God. Almighty God,

C **we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. You know too well our failings and our transgressions. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may find rest in You and with refreshed hearts serve You in time and in eternity.**

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Song of Praise

“King of Kings”

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
Till from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of Glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died

Praise the Father, praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of Glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of Glory, majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings
Praise forever to the King of kings

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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. O God,

C **whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 4:1–16

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill

me.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:12–20

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 4:1–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³“Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” ⁹And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Song

"God of Justice"

God of Justice Saviour to all, came to rescue the weak and the poor
Chose to serve and not be served.

Jesus You have called us.

Freely we've received, now freely we will give.

We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, We must go.
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing,
Move us into action, we must go.

To act justly every day, loving mercy in every way;
Walking humbly before You, God.
You have shown us what You require.
Freely we've received, Now freely we will give.

We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, We must go.
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing,
Move us into action, we must go.

We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, We must go.
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing,
Move us into action, we must go.

Fill us up and send us out, fill us up and send us out,
Fill us up and send us out, Lord.

Fill us up and send us out, fill us up and send us out,
Fill us up and send us out, Lord.

We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, We must go.
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing,
Move us into action, we must go.

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Sermon

"Offended: Avengers and Vagabonds: Part II"

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And now we thank You that by the working of Your Holy Spirit through the Gospel, You have called us as Your own and given us eternal promises through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, as the perfect offering, has taken upon Himself the sins of the world and has, by His rising from the grave, opened to us the very gates of heaven. As we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, grant that we be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and finally be granted our place with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Participation in Holy Communion

St. Paul urges us to examine ourselves before partaking of Holy Communion (*1 Cor. 1:28*). It is only right that we first recognize our sin before receiving God's grace in this holy meal. In the Lutheran Church, Holy Communion, is considered a public confession of our common faith. If you are a visitor unfamiliar with the teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, out of respect for your own faith tradition, we invite you to receive a blessing. Place your right hand over your heart with your head bowed to receive a blessing.

Post-Communion Song of Response

“Jesus Paid it All”

And I hear the Savior say thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray find in Me thine all in all

'Cause Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone

'Cause Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save my lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow

Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow; He washed it white as snow.

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead, Jesus.

CCLI Song # 4689508; words and music by Alex Nifong | Elvina M. Hall | John Thomas Grape
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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. Be among us with Your sacred and refreshing gifts, O Lord, and enlighten us by the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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 Song

"Graves into Gardens"

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,
And You still call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can

Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

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Announcements

Sending

P With boldness and courage we go now, believing this eternal truth...

C **God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and authority to do the good works He has prepared for us to do. Amen.**

Acknowledgments

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HONORING GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

King of Kings believes firmly in the biblical principle of honoring God through our tithes and offerings. We consider giving to be an act of worship that both expresses and exercises our love and trust in the Lord as the source of all He has entrusted to us. If you are our guest today please know you are under no obligation to give. The mission and ministry of this church is supported by those who have committed themselves to this community of faith. If you do desire to give we ask only that you do so with a joyful heart. King of Kings offers a variety of ways to give:

- An offering basket is located at the rear of sanctuary/worship center where you can place your gift.
- **eGiving:** Scan the QR code or visit www.koklcms.org and look for the donations tab.
- **Text2Give:** You can text your gift to 844.969.0788. Simply enter the amount (no \$ is necessary) and send. It's that simple.



(NOTE: For both eGiving and Text2Give a one-time account set up will be necessary.)

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