

# LUTHERAN CHAPEL



**NEHEMIAH 8:1-10 AND JOHN 3:14-21**

***“THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH ALWAYS”***

*As we endure discipline, trial, and suffering,  
let us look up the Cross of Christ,  
see the steadfast love of God for us, and receive salvation in Him.*

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 14, 2021**

**[lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)  
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL  
MARCH 14, 2021  
4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER**

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses.*

**GATHER**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

*Isaiah 55:6-7, Joel 2:13*

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Seek the Lord while He may be found.

**C: Call upon God while He is near.**

P: Wicked, forsake your ways!

**C: Unrighteous, forsake your thoughts!**

P: Come back to God.

**C: Return to the Lord!**

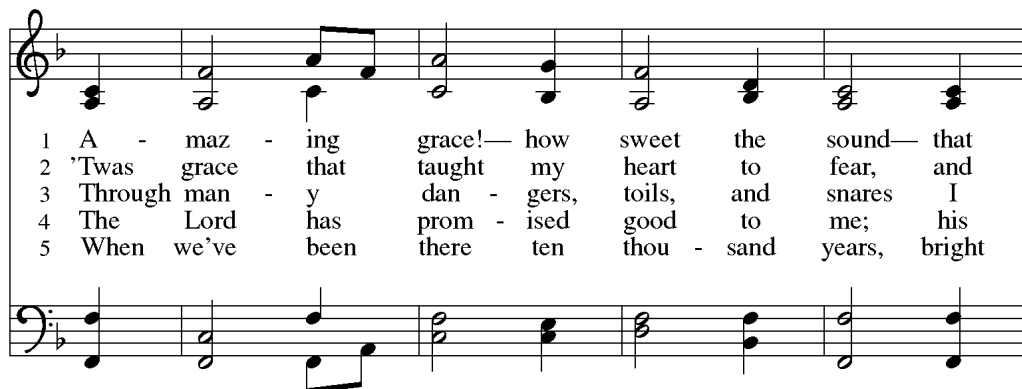
P: Come back to God.

**C: Return to the Lord!**

P: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW #779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

#### NEHEMIAH 8:1-10

*After decades of captivity in Babylon, a remnant of Israel returns to rebuild their nation. The joy of the LORD is our strength!*

<sup>1</sup>All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>4</sup>The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do

not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>**Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."**

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Wayne Wold



1. Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them  
from the hand of the foe. gath'ring them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

### Refrain:

2. Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.  
They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.  
Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and You delivered them from their distress.  
You sent forth Your Word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.  
Let them give thanks to You, LORD, for Your steadfast love and Your wonderful  
works for all people.  
Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of Your deeds with shouts of joy.

### Refrain:

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## SECOND LESSON

## EPHESIANS 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Joel 2:13*

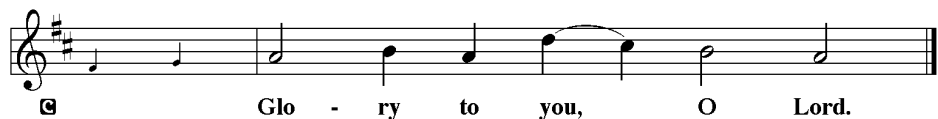


## GOSPEL

**JOHN 3:14-21**

*Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.*

Response after the announcement:



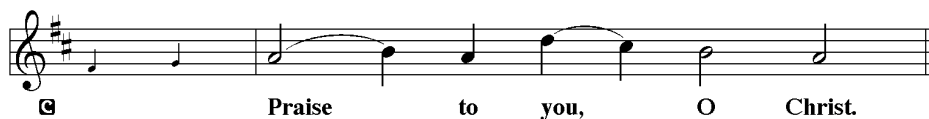
*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

*“The Joy of the LORD is our Strength Always”*

The Story of Nehemiah - Life Building after Disaster

John 3:16

***The Law*** is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: Why do I love the mess of familiar sin? Why do I seem to prefer the darkness at times?

***The Gospel*** is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: Jesus is lifted up on the cross for us all that sinners may look to Him, trust in Him, and be saved.

***So What?*** Keep your focus on the cross of Christ. We are forgiven sinners - let us humbly build our lives on Jesus' Way day by day.



- 1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and fa - vor;  
 2 What God did in the law de - mand no one could keep un - fail - ing;  
 3 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made and brought to us sal - va - tion,  
 4 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un - ceas - ing;



good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and save us  
 great woe a - rose on ev - 'ry hand, and sin grew all - pre -  
 we will re - joice, we will be glad and build on this foun -  
 and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope in -



nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who did for  
 vail - ing. Be - cause the law must be ful - filled, Christ came as  
 da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead; bap - tized in -  
 creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works serve our



all the world a - tone, our on - ly me - di - a - tor.  
 God in mer - cy willed, for us the law o - bey - ing.  
 to your death, I'm freed; your life is mine for - ev - er.  
 neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.

- 5 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise to Father, Son, and Spirit!  
 Lord, you have saved us by your grace;  
 all glory to your merit!  
 O triune God in heav'n above,  
 you have revealed your saving love;  
 your blessed name we hallow.
- 6 Your kingdom come, your will be done  
 in this world as in heaven;  
 give bread for each new day begun;  
 our sins be all forgiven,  
 as we forgive what others do;  
 in ev'ry trial see us through;  
 from evil save us. Amen.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. hymnal version

Music: ES IST DAS HEIL, *Ettlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

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## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

*Ephesians 1:13-14*

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.*

**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.**

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith:

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *Jude 20*

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *Jude 21*

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3*

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *2 Corinthians 13:11*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

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

*A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond* **Hear our prayers.**

*Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.*

P: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Man of Sorrows, who was tempted and suffered to save us.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **SENDING**

## **THE BLESSING**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

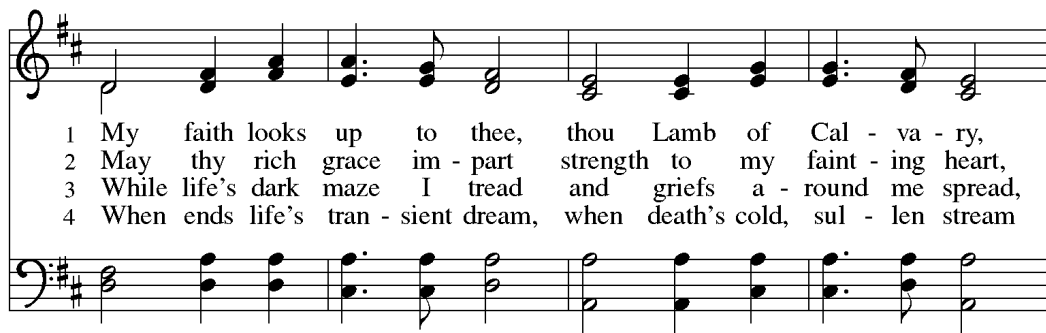
P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

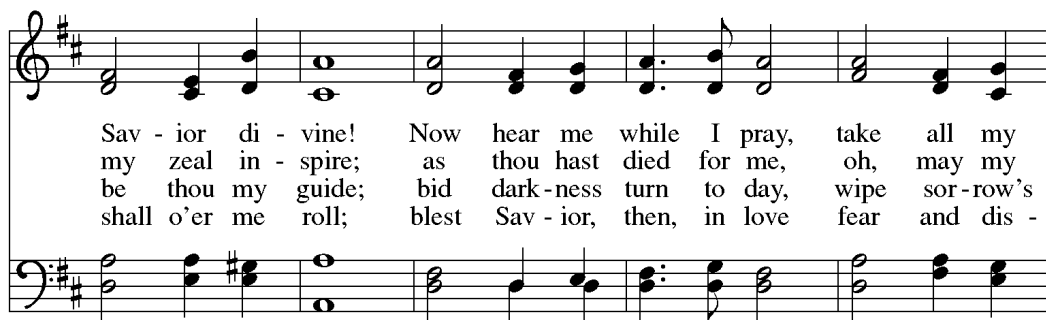
## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

ELW #759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

**OUR ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by Charles & Ann Edwards in memory of Dwight & Blanche Edwards.

### LENTEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

7:30 Wednesday Evenings during Lent

In-person & Online

March 17, 24

## PARISH NEWS

**YOUTH SUNDAY:** Pastor Comer, Mrs. M and Amy are working with the Roots youth to come up with a modified *Youth Sunday* on **April 25th** during the 10:30 service. The Roots youth will be reading the lessons and gospel, presenting the children's sermon, serving as ushers and offering some special instrumental music selections. If any Roots youth is interested in participating, please contact Amy at [amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org) or Mrs. M at [chapelvoices@msn.com](mailto:chapelvoices@msn.com) by Monday, **March 15th**.

**SPROUTS:** We will continue with virtual meetings through March. Our next youth group meeting will be **Wednesday, March 17 at 6 pm**. We will be meeting on **March 28 at 9:30 am** for *Zoom Sunday School*. Amy will email the Zoom link during the week.

**NEWSLETTER:** Articles for the April newsletter are due by Friday, March 19.

**ROOTS:** On Sunday, **March 21** at 9:30 am Roots youth will meet virtually for a monthly devotional. On **Saturday, March 27**, the Roots youth will be helping serve the Clothing Closet Ministry. All youth (and youth families) that are able to help will need to *arrive at the church at 8 am* to help set up for the outdoor Clothing Closet event and then help run the outdoor clothing closet from 10 am- 2 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Parents, please continue to check your email for updates from Amy.

**LUTHER CHOIR & CROSSROADS:** On Sunday, March 21 we will offer a modified Luther Choir and Crossroads schedule for any child/parent who feels comfortable participating. We will meet downstairs in the basement for subdued singing, choir chimes and Orff instruments. Everyone will be spaced out and will be required to wear a mask. All of the instruments will be cleaned and sanitized. No anthems are being planned. We will meet for several weeks just to get the kids and youth comfortable coming back to choir. Several parents have already replied and I really appreciate it. Don't worry if you have not. Luther choir (grades 1-5) will meet at 5:00-5:40 and the Crossroads (grades 6-12) will meet at 5:45-6:30. Please email or call me if you have any questions. Thanks, Mrs. M.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE:** Lutheran Chapel continues to open back up in an effort to return to a sense of normalcy, and our next step is to increase our worship experience from a musical standpoint. After discussions between the Worship & Music Committee, Regathering Committee and church council, LCC has given the green light for our wind ensemble to resume rehearsals with the goal of contributing to the service on Pentecost Sunday (May 23). The group will rehearse and play on that Sunday in a safe, physically-distanced manner, with the intention to continue contributing to select worship services the rest of the year. We look forward to seeing everyone back at LCC in the near future. -- Worship & Music Committee

## **DAILY PRAYER**

**EACH MORNING AND EVENING, PRAY TO THE LORD. (Psalm 1:2)** A prayer list, daily lessons to read the Bible together each year, and a song of praise are below. The “*Our Daily Bread*” devotional is available as a booklet, an app in eBook format, daily e-mail, or podcast. Visit [odb.org/subscribe](http://odb.org/subscribe).

*Please share prayer concerns or updates on the prayer list with the church office (704-864-6491), call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439) or call our prayer team (Katherine Carpenter 704-214-2493). Intercessions will be for a month and then removed unless requested to continue.*

**PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP:** BT & Pauline Bradley, Kori Bradley, Jerry & Shirley Carpenter, **Johnny, Katherine & Eli Carpenter**, Elona Collins, Dru Huffstickler, Robert Park, **Bill Robinson**, the **Sanders Family**, and Bob Thornburg

**FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP:** Eula Brazell, Lee Brinkley, Taylor Brinkley, Deborah Carpenter, Jennie Ehlers, Garry & Carole Farmer, Jamison Franklin, Mona Fulton, Victoria Garcia, Linda Gay, Sherry Hester, Paula Kadel, Eva Ann McLean Kendrick, Suzanne Ledford, Dawn Lemmond, Pr. Tommy Lineberger, Lee Norris, Chris Owings, Caitlin Reece, Paul Scarlata, Dakota Shuford, Judi Truesdail, Charlene Sorenson, and George Sung

### **WEEK 11: MARCH 14 to MARCH 21, 2021**

- 03/14** Morning Reading: Mark 14:1-26—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 23, 24, 25  
**03/15** Morning Reading: Mark 14:27-53—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 26, 27  
**03/16** Morning Reading: Mark 14:54-72—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 28, 29  
**03/17** Morning Reading: Mark 15:1-25—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 30, 31  
**03/18** Morning Reading: Mark 15:26-47—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 32, 33, 34  
**03/19** Morning Reading: Mark 16—Evening Reading: Joshua 1, 2, 3  
**03/20** Morning Reading: Luke 1:1-20—Evening Reading: Joshua 4, 5, 6  
**03/21** Morning Reading: Luke 1:21-38—Evening Reading: Joshua 7, 8, 9

**Song Of Praise**      “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*”      ELW #351

### **Next Sunday, MARCH 21, 2021**

- 8:30 Morning Prayer: Esther 4:9-17 and John 12:20-33  
9:00 Zoom Sunday School: New Beginnings (*The Story*, Chapter 28)  
10:30 Holy Communion: Esther 4:9-17 and John 12:20-33~

*“The Queen of Persia and Those Who Seek Jesus our Lord”*

**This QR** code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.



**CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 14 - SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021**

**Sun-14**    8:30 am    Early Worship w/ Holy Communion (Family Life Center)  
              9:00 am    Sunday School via Zoom  
              10:30 am    Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
              **11:30 am    Confirmation Class (Family Life Center)**  
              **4:00 pm      Congregational Council Meeting (Chapel)**  
              6:00 pm    Chancel Choir  
              8:00 pm    Faith Group (Prayer Hut)

**Mon-15**   8:30 am    Preschool

**Tues-16**   8:30 am    Preschool  
              10:00 am    Clothing Closet Workday



**Wed-17**   8:30 am    Preschool  
              **6:00 pm      Sprouts via Zoom**  
                             **NO HANDBELLS THIS WEEK!**  
              **7:30 pm      Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)**

**Thur-18**   8:30 am    Preschool



*We are so happy you joined us for worship this morning.  
Please fill out the information below and leave this page in the pew  
following the service. Thank you!*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Member    \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor    \_\_\_\_\_ Desire a call from the Pastor

**Prayer Request:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_