

God's Love Is Shown

A Series of Services for Lent and Holy Week

Week 4: Living Love

Order of Service

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Opening Hymn ... Living Love (LSB #461)

I know that my Redeemer lives;
what comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives to bless me with his love,
he lives to plead for me above,
He lives my hungry soul to feed,
he lives to help in time of need.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend,
he lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives,
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Invocation and Litany

P In the name of the Father,

C Who lives in us;

P and of the Son,

C Who lives in us;

P and of the Holy Spirit,

C Who lives in us. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Confession and Absolution

P The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Seeing death all around us, we humbly realize our own sinfulness, and we know that we are doomed to death apart from Jesus. Humbly we go before our heavenly Father, confessing our sin, and imploring his mercy and grace on account of his Son.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

C Heavenly Father, in guilt and shame I come to you. I have not loved you with my whole heart, nor have I loved my neighbor as myself. I have sinned in my thoughts, words, and actions, by what I have done and what I have failed to do. I am dead. Forgive my sins and revive my spirit that I may trust in you and rely on your forevermore. Amen.

P Because Jesus suffered and died, death has been put to death forever. Because Jesus rose from death and is alive, you shall live forever! Your sin has been atoned for! Christ's love is alive in you! 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! Amen! Amen!

Hymn of Praise... Almighty God, Thy Word Is Cast (LSB #577)

Almighty God, thy word is cast like seed upon the ground,
Now let the dew of heav'n descend and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe this holy seed remove:
But give it root in ev'ry heart, to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow;
That all whose souls the truth receive its saving pow'r may know.

Old Testament Reading ... Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle Reading ... 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel Reading ... John 1:9-14

Sermon Hymn ... Christ The Life of All the Living (LSB #420)

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe;
Who thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe,
Through thy suffering, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on thee bond and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever;
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only that my wounds might all be whole;
Thou has suffered, sad and lonely, rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround thee, treating thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned thee, all disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne
That as thine thou mightest own me and with heavenly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... Christ The Life of All the Living (LSB #420)

Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee that from pain I might be free;
Falsely did thy foes accuse thee, thence I gain security;
Comfortless thy soul did languish me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction, and hast borne it patiently;
Even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought our pardon, for thy sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore;
Thank thee for my groaning, sighing, for thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Prayers

P Living Lord, as we are deep in the middle of this season of Lent, keep us full of your living love so that we may not grow weary by the changes and chances of this world, but that our lives may be full of that love and may have the endurance, courage, and strength to bring it to others. Lord, in your living love,

C hear our prayer.

P Living Lord, you brought life and immortality to light. Remind us that you are alive, and because you live, we shall live also. As Satan tempts us to take our eyes off the eternal life that is before us, and onto the death caused by sin, turn us back around so that we may hold fast to the living love of our living Lord, Jesus. Lord, in your living love,

C hear our prayer.

P Living Lord, as there are many who desire your healing hand in physical, emotional, and even spiritual ways; we ask that you would bring your living love to bear on their lives that they may be strengthened for whatever your will is, and that their faith would grow even as they wait upon your healing. Lord, in your living love,

C hear our prayer. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The living love of the Father,

C His love is alive!

P And of the Son,

C His love is alive!

P And of the Holy Spirit grant you his peace and rest!

C His love is alive! Amen!

Closing Hymn ... Glory Be To Jesus (LSB #433)

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream,
Which from endless torment did the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift ye then your voices; swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood.