

April, 2023



Hosanna

Ascension Lutheran Church • 3801 Oakwood Avenue NW • Huntsville, AL 35810

What's Happening

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Calendar of Services

April 2 - Palm Sunday
April 6 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 PM
April 7 - Good Friday - 7:00 PM
April 8 - Easter Vigil - 7:00 PM
April 9 - Easter Sunday
6:30 AM - Sunrise Outdoors
Breakfast
8:45 AM - Worship with Communion
Breakfast
10:45 AM - Worship with Communion
April 16, 23, 30 - 8:00 & 10:45 AM

April 3, 10, 17, 24 - 6:00 PM

Pulpit Pastors for April
April 2 - Rev. James Garnett
April 6 - Rev. Richard Gaub
April 9 - Rev. James Garnett
April 16 - Rev. Doug DeWitt
April 23 - Rev. Gary Nagy
April 30 -

Outreach Ministry

The members of the Missional Outreach Ministry go to two separate locations to preach, pray and sing. The dates for this month for both locations are:

April 5 - HHR at 10:15 AM

April 13 - Regency at 12:30 PM

April 19 - HHR at 10:15 AM

April 27 - Regency at 12:30 PM

The worship service consists of the following:

Welcome

Song 1

Song 2

OT Reading

Song 3

Song 4

NT Reading

Song 5

Song 6

Gospel

Song 7

Message

Song 8

Song 9

There is time for one-on-one with the residents, many of whom seem to enjoy this time of attention.

There is a Sunday morning group that goes to Regency at 9:45AM to lead the worship service there. Anyone is welcome to join in with the groups to participate.



HE IS RISEN!

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth."

Job 19:25

Job very nearly experienced hell on earth. The devil slammed Job with anything he could think of to prove to God that Job would turn away from His Savior. In the midst of all this, Job was told by everyone he knew that this situation was hopeless, that God had forsaken him.

In ancient Israel, a redeemer was a family member who brought a slave's way to freedom or who took care of a widow. What tremendous faith Job had, especially in light of the fact that he was unaware of the conference between God and Satan. Job thought that God had brought all these disasters upon him. Faced with death and decay, Job still expected to see God, but expected to do so in his body.

"And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." Job 19:26

Job said, "in my flesh I will see God." In Job's situation, it seemed unlikely to him that he would, in his flesh, see God. And that was just the point of Job's faith! He was confident that God's justice would triumph, even if it would take a miracle like resurrection to accomplish this.

"I myself will see Him with eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" Job 19:27

Thousands of years later, Jesus truly did experience hell on earth. The Gospels show how the devil slammed Jesus with everything he could, including the sin of single, horrible crimes ever committed. Jesus was surrounded by people who mocked Him. Even God the Father forsook Him.

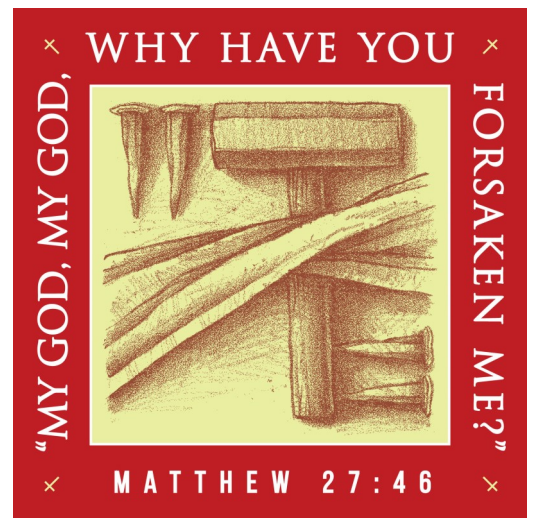
*"Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!"*

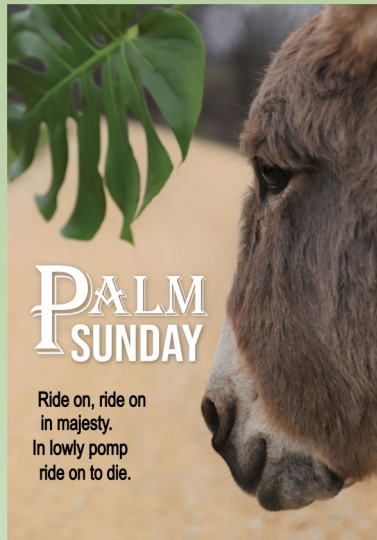
Psalm 96:1-3

If we believe God is great, we cannot help telling others about Him. The best witnessing happens when our hearts are full of appreciation for what He has done. God has chosen to use us to declare His marvelous deeds among all people. Praise for our great God overflows from His creation and should overflow from our lips.

In spite of all these trials, Job still proclaimed an incredible truth: "I know that my Redeemer lives." He goes on to say that he will rise from the dead one day and see His God face-to-face. And Job's Redeemer did rise, bringing with His resurrection and undeniable truth that we, too, will see our Savior with our own eyes.

Risen Savior, Alleluia! You have risen from the dead, guaranteeing that we will, too. I look forward to seeing You face-to-face. Amen.





Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna
cry.

O Savior meek, pursue Thy
road,
With palms and scattered
garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to
die.

O Christ, Thy triumphs now
begin
O'er captive death and
conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and
wond'ring eyes
To see the approaching
sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife
is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire
throne
Awaits His own anointed
Son.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt. Text
Public Domain LSB #441

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE DAILY JOURNEY

"Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You."

Psalms 143:8

Most of us have experienced adverse circumstances that dramatically affected us, as well as those we love. How often has our world been disrupted by serious illness, death, failure or financial disaster?

Nevertheless, we have the assurance of God's love for us. However despondent we may be about unexpected events and circumstances that cause us great anxiety, we should never lose sight of the fact that Jesus loves us with an unfailing, eternal and perfect love. He will ease our burden if we turn to Him in prayer and faith. He will allay our fears and concerns and give us His Holy Spirit to comfort us.

Regardless of the circumstances or how dark the future may seem, take God at His Word and listen to His promises. We will enjoy His blessings, as well as His peace that drives out all fear.

*"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
For fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."*

1 John 4:18





CDC – We are moving right along to the end of this school year... We are hoping to plant a garden again this year.

The garden plot is in need of refreshing before we can move forward.

Our spring program is set for Wednesday, May 17. If the weather holds, we plan to hold it outside on the back patio as we did last spring.



We are up for relicensing in May. Most of the paperwork has either been submitted, or is at the end stage of being filled out. After they receive the paperwork, they will visit the center to verify that all the information that was submitted is correct.



It is also time to start thinking about the summer program. We hope to take field trips again this summer. Licensing will also verify that the bus has been properly

maintained and that all requirements are met concerning transporting children.

I am serving on two “Extracurricular” boards/committees. One is within our local community. It is through the Alabama Department of Public health. I am a member of the Community Action Team for Perinatal health. We are working with health institutions, and daycare centers to lower the number of stillborn and SIDs within the northern Alabama area.

The second is a district appointment. I am serving the Southern district of the LCMS as the District Early Childhood consultant. I just returned from a meeting with district consultants throughout Synod to learn more about the position.

Vacation Bible school is scheduled for June 25 through 29. It will be held Sunday through Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. We have already had volunteers for snacks and recreation. We are still in need of staff for Bible lessons, music, and crafts. Please let one of the Board of Education members know if you can serve our congregation, and our Lord in one of these positions.



JESUS GIVES YOU JOY

Do you share your joy even when life is hard?

How many of you have sung “I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart”? I bet you are singing this in your head as you are reading the words. There are several other songs that pop into my head about joy – but mostly children’s songs. Do we forget about joy as we get older – and life gets in the way?



We are studying Joy in our small group. The study was written by LCMS President Matthew Harrison. One of the quotes from his book is, “So many churches, so many pastors and Christians have so little joy today....These are difficult times.”

Have you ever heard the expression “He could sell ice to an Eskimo”? (I know that is politically incorrect, and with global warming... but I grew up with that phraseology). It usually referred to someone who was a good salesperson, who was passionate about their product, and wanted others to experience that goodness the product offered.

How good are we at selling the Joy of the Lord? If we considered ourselves to be on the marketing team to promote the Joy that is given to us by Christ Jesus, I’ve been thinking about catch phrases like that lately because of the pervasive air of sadness and gloom that’s as close to us as the evening news or a social media thread.

I’m glad I’m *not* joy’s marketing strategist. How do you market joy to a joyless, peaceless culture? What enticements could anyone offer a world that’s noted for its perpetually sour mood, its quickness to complain, its daily evidence of hatred, and its deeply embedded despair disorder?



Make Songs of Joy

Make songs of joy to
Christ, our head;

Alleluia!

He lives again who
once was dead!

Alleluia!

Our life was purchased
by His loss;

Alleluia!

He died our death upon
the cross.

Alleluia!

O death, where is your
deadly sting?

Alleluia!

Assumed by our
triumphant King!

Alleluia!

And where your
victory, O grave,

Alleluia!

When one like Christ
has come to save?

Alleluia!

Behold, the tyrants, one
and all,

Alleluia!

Before our mighty
Savior fall!

Alleluia!

For this be praised the
Son who rose,

Alleluia!

The Father, and the
Holy Ghost!

Alleluia!

Wait. I *am* on the joy-marketing strategy team by virtue of my relationship with the Joy-Giver, Jesus. It's part of my calling to promote what He promotes. I'm a carrier - a joy-carrier. It's in the DNA He gave me through my baptism.

My marketing bullet points are:

- ◆ demonstrate what real joy looks like;
- ◆ show that real joy is found in Jesus, despite circumstances; and
- ◆ keep joy vibrant and visible even when life is hard.

There is so much joy in the Bible, it is hard to contain! Think of the Father of the prodigal son at his return, or the shepherd and the lost sheep, or the widow and the lost coin, or the joy of Christ's resurrection. The list could go on and on. Joy is alive and vibrant in and for our world today!

Joy is a concept that the world is already hungering and thirsting for it:

"Come and get your joy! Joy for the taking. No minimum age or height requirements. It's all here in Jesus, waiting for you."

*"Rejoice in the Lord
always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*

Philippians 4:4




"Make Songs of Joy" LSB 484

Text: Juraj Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB hymn license no. 110000117

Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

1. Brave: _ _ _ _ _ E O U _ _ _
 2. A dark profile: _ _ _ _ _ O U E _ _ _ _ _
 3. Circular: _ _ _ _ _ O U _ _ _ _ _
 4. Running away: _ _ _ _ _ E E _ _ _ _ _
 5. Savage, fierce: _ _ _ _ _ I O U _ _ _ _ _
 6. Odd or nostalgic: _ _ _ _ _ U A I _ _ _ _ _
 7. A person from the 50th state: _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ I A _ _ _ _ _
 8. Compress, push together: _ _ _ _ _ U E E _ _ _ _ _
 9. A large tree in California: _ _ _ _ _ U _ _ _ _ _ I A _ _ _ _ _
 10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: _ _ _ _ _ O E I _ _ _ _ _
 11. Upright, moral and righteous: _ _ _ _ _ U O U _ _ _ _ _
 12. Lining up in a row: _ _ _ _ _ U E U _ _ _ _ _
 13. Gorgeous: _ _ _ _ _ E A U _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _ U _ _ _ _ _
 14. Precipitation: _ _ _ _ _ A I _ _ _ _ _
- 

Easter phrase:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							10
11							12
13							14
							!

Answers: 1. courageous, 2. silhouette, 3. round, 4. fleeing, 5. vicious, 6. quaint, 7. Hawaiian, 8. squeeze, 9. sequoia, 10. canoeing, 11. virtuous, 12. queuing, 13. beautiful, 14. rain, Christ is Savoir!



RESURRECTION HOPE

Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because
Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer “1” goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer “2” goes in the second blank, and so on.

2+2 = ____ united 2x3 = ____ death 7+6 = ____ resurrection

3x3 = ____ certainly 18-16 = ____ have 4-1 = ____ been

0+1 = ____ if 2x4 = ____ we 13-1 = ____ him

$2+3 = \underline{\quad}$ in $20-6 = \underline{\quad}$ like $2+5 = \underline{\quad}$ his

$2 \times 5 =$ be $8 + 3 =$ with

“For _____ we _____
1 2 3 4

with him a like ,

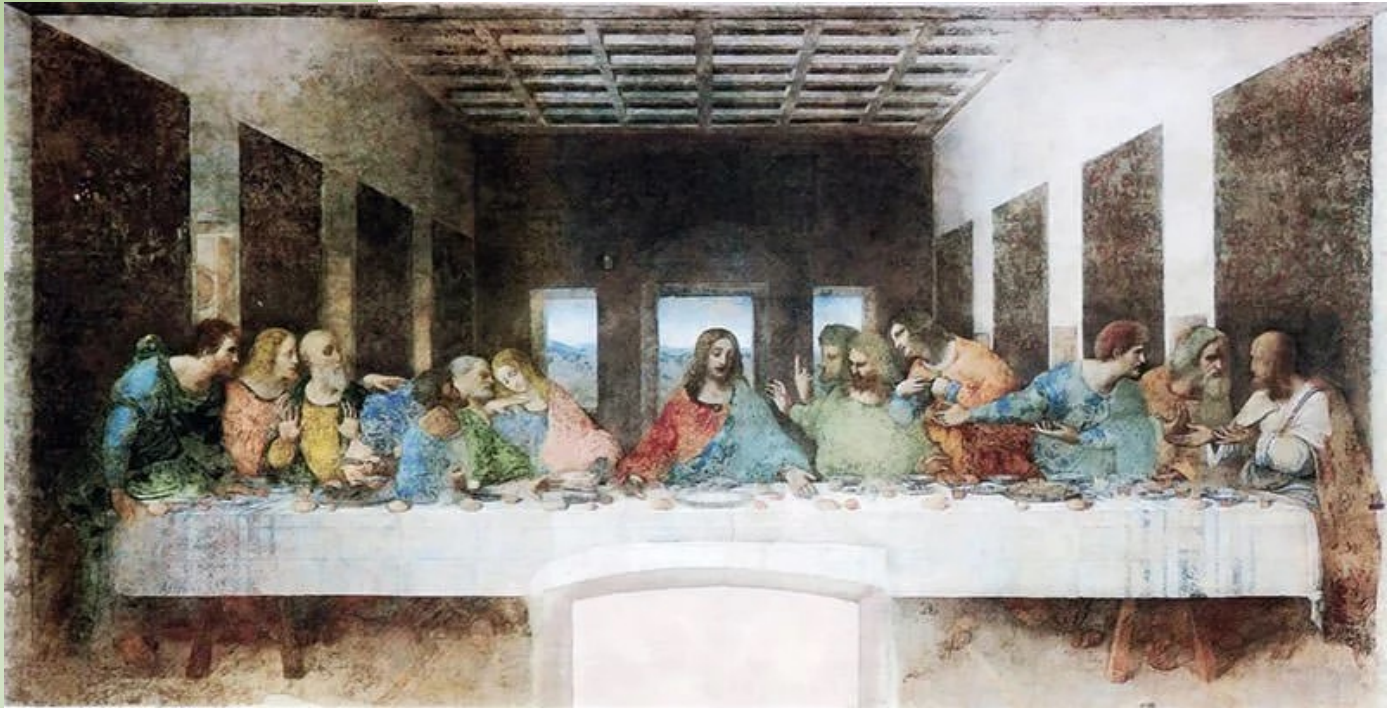
8 will 9 also 10 united

 in a

11 12 13

14 his.” Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV



From the Desk of
Pastor Colin Ford

The Last Supper

By Leonardo DaVinci

Noted above, we recognize Leonardo's *The Last Supper*, one of the most famous artworks in the world, painted probably between 1495 and 1498 for a monastery in Milan. It depicts the dramatic scene described in several closely-connected moments in the Gospels, including Mathew 26:21–28, in which Jesus declares that one of the one of the apostles will betray Him and later institutes the Eucharist.

The most striking part of the painting is the reactions of everyone at the table, as it is not frozen moment in time but rather a representation of successive moments. And Jesus is at

the center of it all, in more ways than one. Not only is Jesus at the center of the table, at the center of the painting, but no one's body overlaps His; i.e., there is nothing blocking His form, at all. Notice where the disciples are all obscuring one another in their portion of the picture and at the end of the table. Therefore, the emphasis is on Christ.

The other way Christ is emphasized is through a technique in art called the horizon line. The horizon line in art theory is **a horizontal line that runs across the paper or canvas to represent the viewer's eye level**, or to delineate where the sky meets the ground. It should rarely be in the center of the composition, but ideally placed about one-third of the way up or down the piece. Yet Leonardo takes this technique and uses it to further draw the eyes to Christ, as all the horizon lines in the painting lead to the face of Christ. This also emphasizes the words He has just finished speaking: *"He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me."*

But who cannot be drawn to the centerpiece of Jesus, His arms out wide, looking solemn, in contrast to the faces around him; knowing Judas would betray Him, but not showing any anger, just stating that it (betrayal) is going to happen, and His face reflects that knowledge. Watching these different expressions is capturing what people at the table are thinking, and this all reflects Leonardo's belief that posture, gesture, and expression should manifest the "notions of the mind," each one of the 12 reacting in a manner that Leonardo considered fit for that man's personality.

Jesus has declared his forthcoming betrayal, and the Apostles react. Leonardo has painted each disciples' expression with a truly unique reaction. The disciple immediately to his left is James, with his hands out wide in disbelief; Philip, in the group to Jesus' left, gestures to himself, indicating, "Surely not I, Lord"; and Judas, who would betray him, depicted in the group on the right, clutching the money bag, with his one hand while also reach toward the same dish on the table between them, an act that marks Judas as the betrayer. A reference to

Matthew 26:23 (“The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray Me.”)

We could analyze and look at each disciple in this essay, but I do not want to rob you of looking at the artwork yourself and maybe reflecting on how you might have received such news if you were one of the disciples at the time. Look at the Last Supper and reread the Gospel accounts. See what else pops out at you from the painting. See if you can identify which apostle is which.



**“I have eagerly desired
to eat this Passover
with you ...”**

LUKE 22:15. NRSV

When You Woke That Thursday Morning

When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples' feet.

What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”

One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev'ry place and time.

One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

LSB #445

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dahn Abello	4/3	Kallie Cowart	4/13
Lincoln Anzalone	4/5	Katherine Benson	4/20
Andrew Levenhagen	4/6	Austin Decker	4/21
Frederick Hartwig	4/9	Caitlyn Tate	4/23
Preston Heritage	4/12	Roberta Hirschbuehler	4/28
Greer Heritage	4/12	Olivia Yates	4/29
Andrew Thies	4/12	Haddie Gehring	4/30

April 9 – Elaine & Larry Jeziorski (69 years)

April 19 – Nadine & Bob Hartwig (49 years)

April 20– Sue Ellen & Bob Smith (21 years)

April 24 – Crissi & Scott Patterson (19 years)



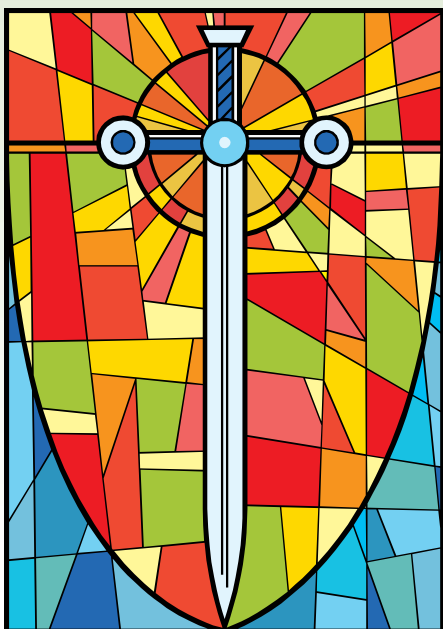
ON THE SUBJECT OF WINDOWS

While I was sitting at my desk one day, I heard the story of how a woman who used to be a member at Ascension donated a lot of money to get the sanctuary dressed up with stained glass windows. She had an example of the pictures that could be used on each window and the symbol or story from the Bible that the windows would represent. When I asked why there were no stained glass windows in the sanctuary, the answer was that the money was used for something else - and the woman who donated the money left Ascension.

So as I sat in church on Sunday morning and looked out the windows at the gloomy sky, I had a light-bulb idea - with a suggestion from the woman sitting in front of me.

There are 15 windows in the altar area of the sanctuary, the two bottom ones being very long compared to the rest. There are 11 windows of equal size along the sides of the sanctuary and on the left side (looking at the altar), there is a smaller window about the emergency exit door. (I can see 11 disciples' icons on one side, with maybe Judas hanging above the exit door, or just words above the door, "Enter the Mission Field" or "Called").

Then my cohort in discussing this suggested that members or friends of Ascension could "buy" a window, or part of a window, and we could raise money for getting our own stained glass windows into the sanctuary. The cost would probably be more than it would have been 40 to 45 years ago when the money was available, but that ship has sailed, so here is one suggestion if we wanted to make it happen now. Think about it!



THE LOVE OF GOD

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39

Lent



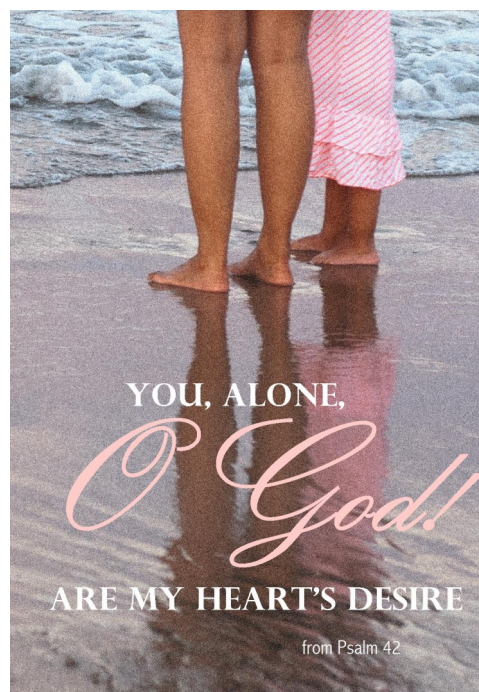
As poor, miserable sinners, sometimes it is hard to believe that the Almighty God, the Creator of the universe and everything in it, loves us. It is easier to believe that we deserve punishment, even eternal punishment, for all the wrongs we have committed, for all the times we have rebelled against God, for every time we elevated ourselves above Him, than to believe that God loves us so much that He was willing to humiliate Himself, to become man, to be born and grow up in the humblest of settings, to ultimately die an excruciating, shameful death on a cross, all so that we don't get the punishment we so deserve. This is incredible! Why would He do this for us?

The world is full of evil. This nation is full of evil. We are full of evil. We have abandoned God and pursued so many false gods. We have bought into vile ideologies, we have murdered our unborn children at the altar of reproductive health, of lifestyle choices, of sexual freedom, we have remained silent while our country has adopted more and more wicked anti-Biblical positions, we have let our sinful, self-centered culture penetrate our churches, with many churches, even denominations, abandoning the Bible, replacing God's Word with social justice, with support for lifestyles the Bible describes as abominable. We have placed our desires above God's will. Yet, God loves us. Even while we were/are His enemies, He loves us. Even when we turn on Him and call for His crucifixion, He loves us. He wants to forgive us. He wants to reconcile with us. He wants to save us. Why?



Compared to God, we are nothing. The earth is a little rock in an enormous universe, and we are each just one out of billions of inhabitants of that rock. Our sun is one of billions of stars in the Milky Way galaxy, and our galaxy is just one of perhaps billions of galaxies in the universe. This entire universe, with its countless number of stars and probably even more planets, was created by the all-powerful God. Over the course of six days. Spoken into existence out of nothing. A God that all powerful cares about us? Loves us? We seem so insignificant.

To be honest, it's amazing to think that the almighty God even knows who we are, yet alone loves us with all our imperfections. It's incredible that this God would stoop so low as to become one of us, would undertake to fix the mess that we've created, would offer Himself as a sacrifice in our place. What have we ever done for Him? Why would He do anything for us?



A God that controls our future, that determines where we spend eternity, that can sentence us to eternal suffering or save us to eternal bliss is One to be feared. A God so powerful, so much in control, is a God we should approach with great trepidation, yet we so often take Him for granted. We enter His church not in thanksgiving and praise but with our hearts and minds elsewhere, in conversations about trivial topics, in laughter and joviality. We daydream during the sermon; we don't pay attention during the readings. We approach the altar for Communion without truly examining ourselves. We leave church and immediately our focus turns from God to what to eat, what we



Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on
high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns
above,
Deeper than the depths of
sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—
wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought
Him not.

Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded
heart,
Peace that flows from sin
forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to
heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with
God
In the way that Enoch trod.

O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your
Word!
When my wayward heart
would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

need to accomplish that day, to everything but doing God's will. It's amazing that, despite our unfaithfulness, God wants to have anything to do with us. We are so unworthy of His love. Yet He loves us. More than we can possibly fathom. Despite our miserable flaws, our unfaithfulness, He loves us.

The love that God has for us is beautiful, incomprehensible, unfathomable, completely undeserved. If our being poor, miserable, self-centered sinners is not enough to deter God from loving us, then Paul is undoubtedly correct in stating that nothing can separate us from God's love. How wonderful this is! God loves you! God loves me! Despite our many, many, many shortcomings God still loves us, still offers us forgiveness and eternal life!

Thanks be to God that this is not a reciprocal relationship, Thank God that His love for us is not dependent on our faithfulness to Him. Thanks be to Jesus that His willingness to undertake our punishment didn't depend on our worthiness. Whenever we sin, and the ways listed in this article are just a few of the many ways we sin against God, we rebel against Him, we turn our back on Him. We are in almost constant need of repentance, as our many sins interfere with our relationship with our Lord and Savior. We, like all mankind, desperately need the forgiveness that only God can give us.



When Jesus became man, when He suffered and died on the cross, He did so for miserable sinners like you and me. He didn't do it because He saw something worthwhile in us, something worth saving. He did it even though we are repugnant sinners who don't begin to deserve it. He did it out of love for us, even though we are, by nature, His enemies. He did it because He truly wants to save all of us, He truly wants to share eternal bliss with us, He truly wants to adopt us as His brothers and sisters.

Lent is a season when we focus on repentance, when we review the passion story of our Lord and Savior. We hear of the terrible sufferings He underwent. We read of His unjustified condemnation, His horrible death on the cross. We celebrate His resurrection on Easter, His victory over sin, death, and the devil. We remember everything that Jesus did, and we contemplate in amazement that He did this for us!

We have a wonderful, incredible, loving God! We deserve so much worse than what He wants to give us.

We Are Called to Stand Together

We are called to stand together
With the saints of ages past,
With the patriarchs and prophets
In the faith they once held fast;
Promises and hopes they treasured
Now we find fulfilled at last!

Those whom Jesus called
apostles Journeyed with Him side by side,
Heard His teaching, felt His power,
Saw the way He lived and died;
Then the news of resurrection
They delivered far and wide.

Through the intervening ages
Round the world the Gospel spread:
Faithful heralds took the message,
Guided where the Spirit led;
So the body grew in stature,
Serving Christ, the living head.

Now in many tongues and cultures
Songs of celebration ring;
Millions who confess our Savior
Honor Him as Lord and King
And, for courage, grace and guidance
Ev'ry day their prayers they bring.

To each coming generation
Tell the truth, persuade, explain,
Till the time when time is ended,
Till the Savior comes again -
Till the saints are all united
Under Christ's eternal reign!

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LSB #828



“As we gather together in Christian love.”

The **Fellowship Groups** are going strong.

- ◆ The Ballentine/Corser group is studying “A Little Book on Joy” written by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, the President of LCMS. They meet every other Sunday at 6:00 PM at Michele’s home on 140 Matt Phillips.
- ◆ The Engel/Pate group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM at Logan’s Roadhouse on Balmoral Dr. Devotions and Prayer are led by various members.
- ◆ Bobbie Scroggins’ group is studying the book of Galatians led by Alan King. They meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 6:00 PM at Bobbie’s home at 228 Lee Bowden Dr.
- ◆ The Gehring family group meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in joining a group, contact me at 256-830-4227.

New attendees include:

- ◇ Sharon & John Ball who are long-time members and have started back attending the late service.
- ◇ Tim & Sarah Topek transferred from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Decatur. They live in Owens Cross Roads and attend the late service.
- ◇ Martin & Katie Popp and their three children from Des Moines, IA, attended during their Spring Break trip.

Be sure and introduce yourself to:

⇒ Brian & Audrey Osterndorf

⇒ Ed & Linda Myszka

⇒ There are two UAH students attending, Guillaume Williams and Roald Schaum. Guillaume will graduate in May with a degree in Technical Writing. Do you know of any new people attending the early service?

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's
pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict
see,
Watch with Him one
bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs
away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to
pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life
arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the
gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul
sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame,
or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the
cross.

Calv'ry's mournful
mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice
complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him
cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to
die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His
breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him
away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our
eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

LSB #436
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Text: Public domain

Genesis 3:8

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

Who would have guessed that a garden could be a spot of beauty, until it wasn't. God created His world by His Word, made dust into man by breathing into his nostrils the breath of life, and the rest should have been history. Well, it *is* history, but it was supposed to be so different.

God: Don't eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil; if you do, you'll die.
Satan: Did God *really* say to stay away from this fine tree? I guess it's because He doesn't want you to be just like Him, eh?
Eve: Well, what will one little bite hurt, anyway? Hey, Adam!
Satan: Gotcha, gotcha, gotcha! WhooWhee!
Sin Committed: Disobedience, Doubt, Lies
God's Action: Promise of a Savior

John 18:26

"One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?'"

Another garden, another time, another place. Man had improved from those in the first Garden. They had waterways, they had chariots, they had lights from fire, they had robes and sandals and scrolls. So much more urban and sophisticated than earlier.

Jesus: Come and watch and pray with Me this night. My time is at hand.
Peter: I'm glad we came here. I feel like a snooze coming on.
James: I'm pretty wiped out, too.
John: Would you two be quiet and just listen? We're supposed to be pra. . . .

Until they were awakened, the third time, by Jesus and the noise of soldiers' feet, carrying fire on their lit sticks. Peter was quick to pull his sword and cut the ear off of an unknown soldier, and when questioned later, while Jesus was standing "trial," Peter totally denied having been in the garden and even worse, of even knowing "the man."

Sin committed: Denial, betrayal, lies, desertion

Jesus' Action: Forgiveness from across a courtyard; Sacrifice

John 20:15

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

And yet, another garden. Where Adam and Eve hid from God after they had sinned and were embarrassed and afraid, and where Peter in his garden denied knowing Jesus because he feared he would be killed, too, Mary wept in her garden because her Savior was missing. He was gone, stolen, in her mind, with no where to turn.

Jesus: Why are you crying? Who do you seek?
Mary: If you know where He is, the one who was crucified on Golgatha on Friday, tell me where He is.

Sins committed: All of them, but covered with the Blood of the Lamb
Jesus' Action: Compassion, Love, Redemption Completed



When I Behold Jesus Christ

When I behold Jesus Christ,
True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love
As He hung on the tree.

What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.

For me You gave all Your love,
For me You suffered pain;
I find no words, nothing can
Your selflessness explain.

What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.

You had no sin, holy Lord,
But You were tortured, tried;
On Golgotha there for all
My sins You bled and died.

What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.

What love is this? Greater love
No one has ever known.
My life with God— this I owe
To You, and You alone.

LSB #542

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): Almaz Belhu; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959

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April Calendar 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency	3 6:00 PM - Worship	4 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	5 10:15 AM - HHR 6:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service	7 7:00 PM - Good Friday Service	8 10:00 AM - LWML 7:00 PM - Easter Vigil Service
9 6:30 AM - Sunrise Service 8:45 & 10:45 AM - Easter Services Breakfast between services	10 6:00 PM - Worship	11 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - Board of Directors	12 6:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal	13 12:30 PM - Regency	14	15
16 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency	17 6:00 PM - Worship	18 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Elders	19 10:15 AM - HHR NO CHOIR	20	21	22 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
23 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency	24 6:00 PM - Worship	25 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	26 6:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal	27 12:30 PM - Regency	28	29
30 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency			<div> <p>Ascension Lutheran Church 3801 Oakwood Avenue NW Huntsville, AL 35810</p> <p>Carla Jo Peebles, DCM Judy Burhans, Secretary</p> <p>President - Cameron Lee Elder - Rick Hilst</p> </div>			