

First Sunday of Lent
First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
March 9, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Call to Worship: *based on Isaiah 43:19-21*

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

God's Greeting

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain: Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even me;
Broader than the scope of my transgressions, greater far than all my sin and shame;
O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise His Name!

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled,
By its transforming power making him God's dear child,
Purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity –
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. *Refrain*

(“Wonderful Grace of Jesus” Haldor Lillenas © Public Domain CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Are You Washed in the Blood

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in his grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain: Are you washed in the blood,
In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean;
O be washed in the blood of the Lamb? *Refrain*

(“Are You Washed in the Blood?” words and music by Elisha A. Hoffman Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Beneath the Cross

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me come.
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown,
We follow in His footsteps where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives.

(“Beneath the Cross” text and music Keith and Kristyn Getty; © 2005 Kingway's Thankyou Music; admin: EMI Christian Music Publishing, CCLI #358926, Streaming #20317932)

Lenten Reading: *Isaiah 42:1-4; Philippians 2:4-7*

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way,
Where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.

And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on
Through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming Dawn.

So let us choose the path of One who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
And slept in death that we might wake to life on Resurrection Morn!

("Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" Words by James Gertmenian, Musie Musikalisches Handbuch; arr. William H. Havergal © 1993 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Offertory Prayer and Offering: Dustin & Melissa - Converge

Congregational Prayer

Scripture: *Romans 9:24-29*

²⁴ *Even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?* ²⁵ *As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" ²⁶ "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"*

²⁷ *And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, ²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay."*

²⁹ *And as Isaiah predicted,*

"If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Sons of the Living God*

God Has Spoken by His Prophets

God has spoken by His prophets, spoken His unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, His throne eternal, God the First and God the Last.
God is speaking by His Spirit, speaking to our hearts again;

In the ageless Word expounding God's own message, now as then.
Thro' the rise and fall of nations one sure faith yet standing fast:
God abides, His Word unchanging, God the First and God the Last.

("God Has Spoken by His Prophets" text by George W. Briggs, music by John Zundel © music Public Domain, words 1953. Renewal 1981 The Hymn Society CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Behold the Lamb (*A Love Offering will be received during this song for Bridges of Hope*)

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us - and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you - drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, - and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King

("Behold the Lamb" words and music by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townsend © 2006 Thankyou Music CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Glory Be to Father

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

("Glory Be to the Father" words are Gloria Patri, tune by Charles Meineke © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Pastors: Zac H, Robert W
Prayer: Kyle E
Readers: Brian & Nelda S
Music: Sharon A, Lee V

Offering will be received for Dustin & Melissa, serving in Thailand with Converge to train and mobilize indigenous leaders to join them in sharing the Gospel.

Love Offering will be received following the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper for Bridges of Hope, a ministry that provides a setting to conduct a Christ centered, transformational community seeking to assist men released from prison, and substance abuse rehabilitation centers. For more information, visit www.bridgesofhopewa.org.

Nursery is available with a paging system for children under 3 years during the service in the Education Building.

Children's Church is available for children 3 years – 3rd grade. Children are dismissed to the Education Building during the service.

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church basement and streamed online for anyone unable to worship in the sanctuary.

An assistive listening system is available in the sanctuary; to use this system, switch hearing aids to "T".

On the bulletin, bold font is a response by the congregation. You are invited to join if you feel comfortable.

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