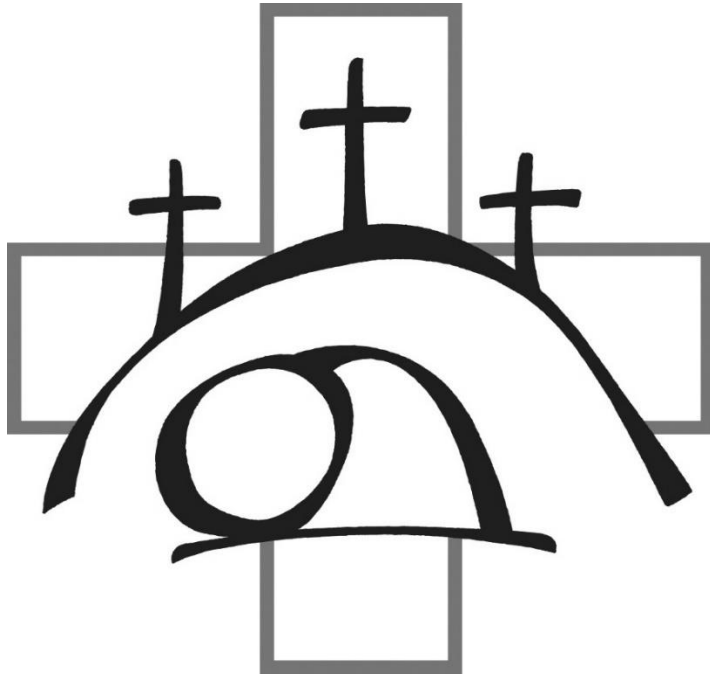


THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ...

*For God so loved 'you' that He gave His One & Only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish
but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

Worship Bulletin for March 12, 2025



**GLORIFY HIM ...
GROW IN HIM ...
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

We are Victory Church & Preschool

A WELS†Ministry

4651 Kernan Blvd S * Jacksonville, FL 32224 * 904.642.8900

Lent – Midweek # 2

March 12, 2025

A place to call home: Victory Lutheran Church & Preschool

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus.

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

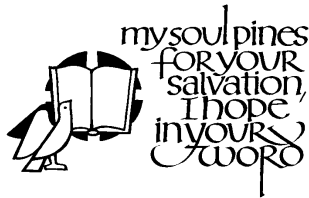
May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

Members & our Guests ... Please fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Bulletin or on the Worship Table as you enter the worship area; before you leave place it in the Thank Offering Plate during the Service or in the basket on the Worship Table. Thank you!

Hymns during the Service are from the blue Hymnals, Christian Worship, found under the chair ahead of your chair.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st & 3rd Sundays. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members of a WELS / ELS church partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



Explore our website, victorylutheran.org. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, our Preschool, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: Follow us on Instagram: Watch our live stream on YouTube, a link to the Worship Bulletin can also be found there.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: When you think of a love story, does your mind right away go to the greatest love story of all time ... that being the one God wrote and acted on? The church Season of Lent provides the perfect setting to see and hear God's love for *you*, even if you have heard it countless times. The focus during Lent is not on what we have to do but on what God already has done for us, and how He keeps it in front of us all our days on this side of heaven. In response, the Holy Spirit prompts us and directs us on how to show our love for God. We can rightly say, then, that what is before us in no ordinary love story.

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: O Lord, open my lips.

Congregation: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Hymn

CW 568 / His Robes for Mine

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.



M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening worship. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise,

C: through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

CW 420 vs 1 / *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

*Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
with your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
of your suff'ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.*

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus' Readiness To Suffer And Die

M: Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Men: Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the High Priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. "But not during the feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."

M: Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money.

All: Judas asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"

M: They counted out for him thirty silver coins. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus sent two of his disciples, Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

Women: "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

M: He replied, "Go into the city. As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher says, my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house. Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

Women: The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

M: In the evening at the proper hour, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them,

Men: "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them are given the title Benefactor. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

Women: For who is greater? The one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials.

M: And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Hymn (*accepella, join the Vocalist*)

CW 612 vs 3 / How Great Thou Art

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"*

M: It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

All: "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

M: Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

All: "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

M: Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

All: "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well."

M: Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

Women: When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Men: I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Once you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

M: Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom. I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the Scripture:

All: ‘He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’

M: I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he. I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.” *Here ends our Passion Reading.*

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: And give us your peace. Amen.

Hymn

CW 570 / God Loved the World So That He Gave

Focus on the Scriptures

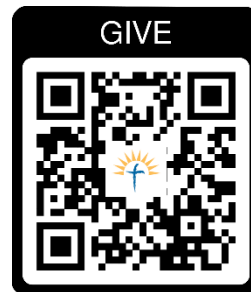
Based on John 3:16-17

“The Greatest Love Story --- God’s Gift To The World”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Thank Offering

Guests: *This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

Prayer of the Church

M: Holy and righteous God, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us appreciate more and more the love that moved him to suffer and die for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Silent meditation

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you

lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

And we also 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.

M: But he was pierced for our transgressions,

C: he was crushed for our iniquities;

M: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

C: and by his wounds we are healed.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Hymn

CW 558 vss 1,6,10 / Salvation unto Us Has Come

Serving at Worship

Pastor: Jonathan Kolander

Accompanist: Esther Huebner

Acknowledgments

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