

ENDURING JOY

THE JOY OF CLARITY



11 FEBRUARY 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht (623) 312.8650 pastor.lincoln.albrecht@gmail.com

WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Today's gathering focuses on the incredible gift of God's Word. As we read and meditate on what God has to say, we marvel at his truth and his grace.

Our readings and songs center on the glory of our King. As we, too, are invited to the mountain with Jesus' inner circle of disciples, we observe the dazzling glory of our Anointed Lord. As Jesus speaks with Old Testament giants, they discussed what was about to happen—his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. All this was for sinners—people like Moses and Elijah, Peter, James, and John, you and me. Our glorified Lord, God's beloved Son, sacrificed himself for our salvation. This is the message that Paul proclaimed to the Corinthians—the reality of the glory of God's one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

The Gathering

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN

Thy Strong Word | 280 (1-2)



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as



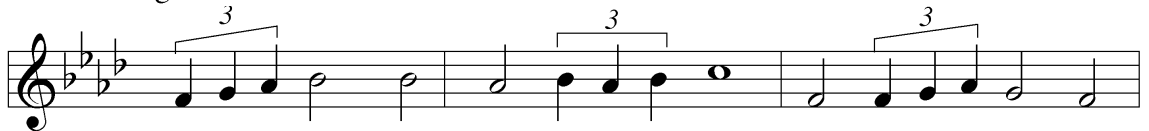
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of



light we thank thee While thine or - dered sea -
thy sal - va - tion, Breathed thine own life - giv -



sons run. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise
ing breath. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise



to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!
to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

M: Oh, how I love your law.
P: **I meditate on it all day long.**
M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
P: **for they are ever with me.**
M: I have more insight than all my teachers,
P: **for I meditate on your statutes.**
M: How sweet are your words to my taste,
P: **sweeter than honey to my mouth.**

HYMN

Thy Strong Word | **280 (3)**

*Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,
P: **so that the person of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
M: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.
P: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

HYMN

Thy Strong Word | **280 (4)**

*From the cross thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!*

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Amen.

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE¹

M: Young men and women, old men and children, let us praise the name of the Lord.

P: His name alone is exalted. His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

M: He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.

HYMN

Thy Strong Word | **280 (5)**

*Give us lips to sing thy glory,
Tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats to shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!*

¹ Our dialogue of praise does not exclude old women, but is from the words of **Psalm 148:12-14**.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: **Amen.**

The Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 4

4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 9:7

M: Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud:

P: **"This is my Son, whom I love.**

M: Listen to him." Alleluia.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the truths of God are presented in a simplified way for all.

SONG OF PRAISE

Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair | 96 (1-3)



1 Oh, won - drous type! Oh, vi - sion fair
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray



Of glo - ry that the Church may share,
Th' in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high,
Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day



Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,
And from the cloud the Ho - ly One
What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove



Where bright - er than the sun he glows!
Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.
Who trust in his a - ton - ing love.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter nine:



² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

¹⁰ They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

¹¹ And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

¹² Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? ¹³ But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Crown Him with Many Crowns | **341**



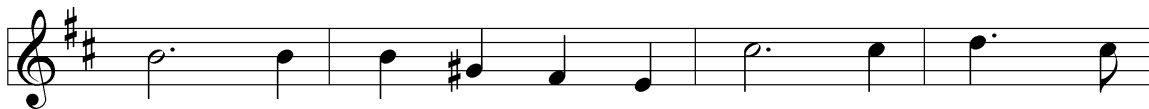
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his
 2 Crown him the Lord of love— Be - hold his hands and
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the
 4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a -



throne; Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All
 side, Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In
 grave And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For
 bove; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The



mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and
 beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No an - gel in the
 those he came to save. His glo - ries now we
 won - drous name of Love. Crown him with man - y



sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him
 sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward
 sing Who died and rose on high, Who died e -
 crowns As thrones be - fore him fall; Crown him, ye



as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
 kings, with man - y crowns For he is King of all.

Our Response to God's Word

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

P: **We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.**

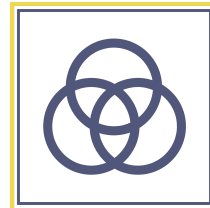
M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

APOSTLES' CREED ²

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**



THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

² *The Apostles' Creed first appeared in a letter written by Ambrose in 390 AD after a church council. This creed was written to confess the Bible's teachings in a simple way.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, we praise you for sending your Son into a world of sin.

P: We confess that not only is our world sinful, but so too are our hearts and minds.

M: But in Christ we are given the gift of everlasting life. You touch our hearts and minds through your Word and assure us there is no reason for us to be afraid.

P: God's wrath is eternally satisfied in the Christ. Assure us that you are well pleased with us because of everything your Son has already done for us.

M: Light of light, with shining face and bright clothing you revealed yourself to Peter, James, and John, giving them a glimpse of your glory. Thank you for continuing to reveal your glory to your Church through your Word & Sacraments. Your grace makes it good, Lord, to be here with you.

P: Teach us to be fully satisfied here. Remind us that your Word is a shining beacon of light as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

M: Holy Spirit, cause people everywhere to regard the Scriptures as the words of God, not those produced by the will of man. Though penned by sinful people, assure us that you carried them along and provided the exact wording you had in mind for us.

P: Grant that we, the members of this congregation, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest your Word that we may embrace and hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

M: Your Word invites us to speak to you with the confidence of a beloved child addressing their loving Father. Hear now our many, but momentary troubles.

A time for silent, personal prayer for God's children.

M: Trusting that you hear and love us dearly, we pray as you taught us:

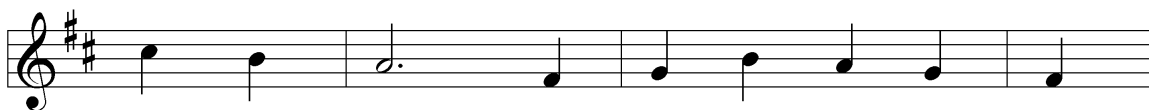
P: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

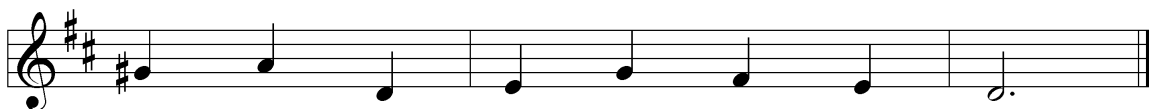
How Good, Lord, to Be Here | 95



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry
 2 How good, Lord, to be here Your beau - ty
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past, Prom - ise of
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, We see your
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may



fills the night; Your face and gar - ments, like
 to be - hold, Where Mo - ses and E - li -
 things to be, We hail your bod - y glo -
 king - dom come; We long to hold the vi -
 not re - main; But since you bid us leave



the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.
 ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
 sion bright And make this hill our home.
 the mount, Come with us to the plain.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

P: **Amen.**

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Hymn #280 **Thy Strong Word** Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Hymn #96 **Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair** Text: Latin hymn, 15th century; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Hymn #341 **Crown Him With Many Crowns** Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, st. 1-2, 4, abr., alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3.

Hymn #95 **How Good, Lord, to Be Here** Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Hymn #496 **Glorious in Majesty** Text: Jeff Cothran, 1948-92. © 1972 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



1 Glo - ri - ous in maj - es - ty, Ho - ly in his
 2 Vic - to - ry he won for us, Free - ing us from
 3 One in love, as fam - i - ly, Liv - ing with each



prais - es, Je - sus, our Sav - ior and our King.
 dark - ness, Dy - ing and ris - ing from the dead.
 oth - er. Glad - ly we share each oth - er's pain.



Born a man, yet God of old, Let us all a -
 Liv - ing with the Fa - ther now, Yet he is a -
 Yet he will not leave us so; Soon he is re -



dore him; Filled with his Spir - it, let us sing.
 mong us; We are the bod - y, he the head.
 turn - ing, Tak - ing us back with him to reign.

Refrain

Liv - ing is to love him, Serv - ing him to know his free-dom.



Come a - long with us to join the praise of Je - sus.



Come to Je - sus now; Go to live his Word, re - joic-ing.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. Stick around for a bite to eat and a refreshing drink. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

INTERESTED IN JOINING RIVER OF LIFE?

REFRESHING TRUTH

Would you like to learn what the Lutheran church believes and teaches? Are you interested in joining our church, or going through a refresher class? We would love to meet with you and study God's Word. Our Refreshing Truth class is about a dozen lessons long and can be scheduled online or here at church. Talk with Pastor Albrecht about how to take the next steps in growing your faith.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP SERVICES

WEDNESDAYS

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. During the next 6 Wednesdays (7pm), we are going to examine the moments when the Son of God was literally on trial. Each Wednesday service will also feature a potluck soup supper beforehand. Make plans to be fed physically & spiritually.

SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ACSTO

If you are an Arizona taxpayer, you can donate to ACSTO and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit in return. If you usually receive a refund from the state of Arizona, you'll get a bigger refund. If you typically owe, you'll owe less. Visit acsto.org for more information.

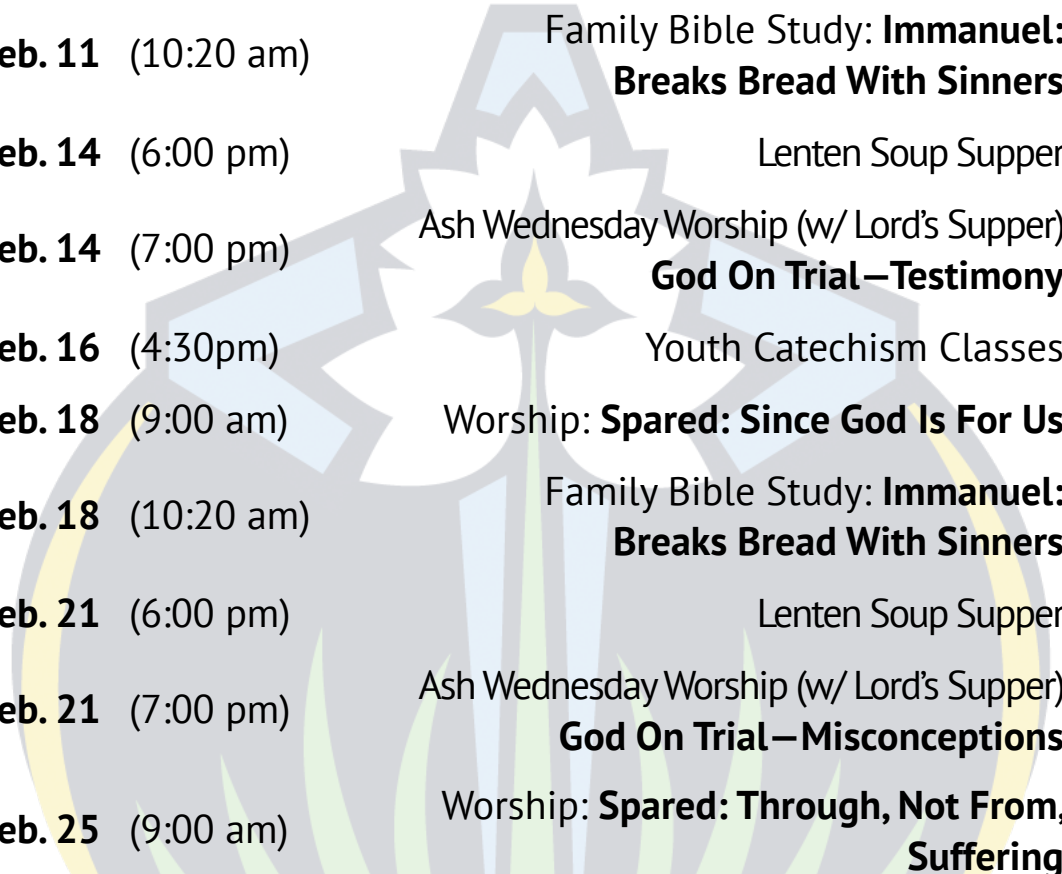
DAYLIGHT MISSION TEAM

MARCH 3-10

Three young ladies—Morgan, Kaitlin, and Caitlin—from Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN)—our synodical worker training school will be helping us advance God's kingdom in our community. They need your help, support, and prayers. How can you help? You can go with them out into our community, provide housing, treat them to a home-cooked meal, or sponsor a lunch or dinner. Talk with Pastor Albrecht if you have any questions.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Feb. 11** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Breaks Bread With Sinners**
- Feb. 14** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Feb. 14** (7:00 pm) Ash Wednesday Worship (w/ Lord's Supper)
God On Trial—Testimony
- Feb. 16** (4:30pm) Youth Catechism Classes
- Feb. 18** (9:00 am) Worship: **Spared: Since God Is For Us**
- Feb. 18** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Breaks Bread With Sinners**
- Feb. 21** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Feb. 21** (7:00 pm) Ash Wednesday Worship (w/ Lord's Supper)
God On Trial—Misconceptions
- Feb. 25** (9:00 am) Worship: **Spared: Through, Not From, Suffering**

CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AZRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you