



## TEACHING THE UNCHANGING TRUTH OF GOD'S SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE

### Pastor Alan W. Gumm

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### Meeting Times

Sunday Worship 8:30 AM  
Bible Study 9:45 AM

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 11, 2018

**W**elcome! If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to sign the "guest register" in the back of the sanctuary so that we might better get to know you.

- **Restrooms** are located in the Fellowship Hall and a baby changing station is located in the Women's bathroom in the Preschool wing.
- **Cry-room.** If you have need of a cry-room, you may use the entryway couch area.

## OPENING HYMN: #397 – *“JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA”*

### INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: *(spoken)* And also with you.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His 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.

C: **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.**

P: 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: *(spoken)* Amen.

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## **OH, TASTE AND SEE**

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.**

**Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.**

**Your faithfulness continues forever.**

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray:

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (Sung) Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON:**

## **NUMBERS 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup>they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. (NIV 1984)

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 38 ON PAGE 81 IN THE FRONT OF YOUR HYMNALS**

**SECOND LESSON:**

**EPHESIANS 2:4-10**

<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV 1984)

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

P: 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. (John 3:16)

**GOSPEL LESSON:**

**John 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. (NIV 1984)

C: (Sung) Praise be to You, O Christ!

**HYMN OF THE DAY: #391 – “God Loved the World So that He Gave”**

**SERMON**

**Text: John 3:14-21**

**Theme: “There Is Good News For You”**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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.**

## **THE OFFERING**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **HYMN: #392 – “Not unto Us”**

#### **PRAYER**

**P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: (Sung) Amen**

## THE BLESSING

P: 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 on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: *(Sung)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: #394 – “Blessed Are the Saints of God”**

# Announcements

## WELS CONNECTION FOR FEBRUARY

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY: 65 COMMUNED: 61**

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE: 35**

## PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

**Chronic pain or illness** – Jean Johnson; Betsy Pritchard; Evelyn Lothar; Carolynn Perkins; Allan Champlain; John Saylor; Lois Montesano; Tammie Mueller; David Champlain (brother of Allan Champlain); David Schield; John Ladner; Bill Geisser; Rose Marie Lenz; Ray Renner; Manny Vega (brother-in-law of Allan Champlain); John Roth; and Bradley Orahood (great-nephew of Cynthia Champlain)

**In Rehab:** Carroll Lothar

**2018 Flower Chart** is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up if you would like to provide flowers for our worship services.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** are now available! If you have a mailbox, you will find them inside. If you don't have a mailbox, you will find them on the table in the rear of the church. The new **Meditations** and **Forward In Christ** are available on the table in the rear of the church!

### **FELLOWSHIP AND SERVING**

**Volunteers for this week:** *Ushers:* Don Bublitz (C) & "Volunteer" *Counters:* Brenda Henschen & Cynthia Champlain *Snacks:* Lois Zastrow

**Volunteers for next week:** *Ushers:* Eric Roth (C) & "Volunteer" *Counters:* Brenda Henschen & Cynthia Champlain *Snacks:* Richard & Marge Dettmann *Communion Set-up:* Lois Zastrow *Communion Helper:* John Henschen

### **Save the Date:**

Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, the **Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir** will be performing at Crown of Life, in Fort Myers. All are welcome to attend!

On Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be setting up for the Easter Egg Bake Breakfast. If you would like to help, please meet at the church at 9:00 am.

Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, is **Easter Sunday**. We will be having an Egg Bake Breakfast. If you would like to bring something, we need fruit and pastries.

### **LWMS:**

The Women's Ministry has chosen the project this spring of supplying our Befriend a Mission in Detroit with as many backpacks for any age as we can collect filled with school supplies. Please consider supporting this project with your prayers, backpacks and/or monetary donations. If you don't feel comfortable purchasing a backpack, monetary donations can be given to Susan Halverson or Lois Zastrow and they will take care of the details. They will be happy to answer any questions. The congregation voted unanimously to use whatever expendable supplies are in the preschool area for these backpacks. Put the backpacks you purchase in the bin that is located in the Narthex. Last year we filled the pink laundry basket, let's fill the bin this year. God's blessings as you support our mission project.

The Suncoast circuit is always looking for new officers. If interested, talk to Susan Halverson.

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR BOTH THE **EASTER BREAKFAST** AND **EASTER LILIES** ARE LOCATED ON THE TABLE IN THE REAR OF THE CHURCH!  
(THE COST OF THE LILIES IS AS OF YET UNKNOWN!)

**THIS WEEK: MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**Sunday:**           **8:30 am – Worship Service**  
                          **9:30 am – Fellowship**  
                          **9:45 am – Bible Class**

**Wednesday:**   **10:30 am – Bible Class**  
                          **12:00 pm – Lenten Soup and Sandwich Meal**  
                          **1:00 pm – Lenten Worship Service**

**Sunday:**           **8:30 am – Worship Service with Holy Communion**  
                          **9:30am–Fellowship**  
                          **9:45 am – Bible Class**