

# The Red Letters of Jesus

February 21, 2024

Theme: Being with Christ

## As We Gather

What if we stopped reading about Jesus and started putting His Red Letter Words into practice? You may have noticed that in many Bibles the words Jesus speaks are in red. What if by putting the words of Jesus into practice, we discover who He is and who He has made us to be? You see, we are to be a reflection of Jesus in this world. How are we doing with that? What about Christianity as a whole? This Lent we will be diving into these ideas. Today, February 21: "Being with Christ"; continuing on February 28: "Forgiving with Christ (even forgiving ourselves)"; March 6: "Serving Christ"; March 13: "Generosity (The Law of Generosity)"; and finally on March 20: "Going for Christ." Maundy Thursday, on March 28, will be "Dining with Christ" and on Good Friday, March 29 we conclude with "Dwelling with Christ."

*"If you love me, keep my commands." (John 14:15)*

## Prelude

(1:00) Steve SeGraves

(7:00) Rick Helderop

## Opening Hymn 145

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1. Jesus, Refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above,  
Oh, how oft Thine eyes, offended, gaze upon the sinner's fall!  
Yet, upon the cross extended, Thou didst bear the pain of all.
2. Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,  
Tho' we see Thee wounded, bleeding, see Thy thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Thy sinless death hath bro't us life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Thy grace hath taught us calms the sinner's stormy breast.
3. Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for Thee!  
May our eyes be ever turning to Thy cross of agony  
'Till in glory, parted never from the Blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified!

## Invocation

*P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## Children's Message - 7:00pm

### More Red Letters of Jesus

*P: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?"*

**C: Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.**

*P: And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

**C: So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."**

*P: But Jesus immediately said to them:*

**C: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.**

*P: Peace I leave with you;*

**C: My peace I give you.**

*P: I do not give to you as the world gives.*

**C: Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

*P: I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace.*

**C: In this world you will have trouble.**

*P: But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

**C: He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,**

*P: "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

**C: He said to His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**

*P: They were terrified and asked each other,*

**C: "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"**

## Hymn of the Day

It Is Well With My Soul

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*Refrain:*

*It is well, it is well with my soul, with my soul*

*It is well, it is well with my soul*

2. My sin O, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*
3. And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound,  
and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:28-30

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

## Sermon

Matthew 11:28-30

**"The Red Letters of Jesus: Come to Me"**

Rev. James Greenwalt

## Offering - 7:00 (1:00 offerings will be received at the door)

*At this time, please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today.*

*Instructions are on the back page.*

## Voluntary

(1:00pm) Lamb of God - Paris

Steve SeGraves, vocalist

(7:00pm) Passacaglia for Viola - Clarke

Heidi Kletzli, viola

## 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.

### Benediction

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

**C: Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 153

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.
2. Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, was there ever grief like His?  
Friends thro' fear His cause disowning, foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him, none would interpose to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that Justice gave.
3. Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the Sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

## Postlude

(1:00) Steve SeGraves

(7:00) Rick Helderop

Thanks and appreciation to:  
Steve SeGraves and Heidi Kletzli for providing special music at the services.

*Ushers*

1:00 - Bob Stewart

7:00 - Mike Grattan, captain; Rick McDonald, Andrew Tafel,  
Eric Rolf, Ron Lalone, Bryan Grattan, David Eberly

*Altar Guild*

Karen Pridmore, Kathy Eley, Colleen Hartwig, Rose Kiehle, Megan Rettray,  
Rosemary Scheidt, Ellie Gause, Bev Yocum, Erin Springer, Kim Martin

*Audio/Video Operators*

7:00 - Greg Merryman and David Hardoin

Our Lenten Meal Preparers:

Lunch: Robin Swift, Barbara Peterson, Jan Endress

Dinner: Michele Margosian

The Red Letters of Jesus: Digging Deeper

- Matthew 11:25-30 is a call for stressed and strained souls to find rest in God alone.** What were the stresses and strains in Christ's life? Think of the predominant responses to His ministry in Matthew 11. (See Matthew 11:2-3, 11:20-24)
  - According to Matthew 11:27, how did He respond to those stresses? What truths about the Father did Jesus Himself rest in?
    - In what areas of your life would you say you are laboring or weary?
    - How do the truths that Jesus knew about His Father give you comfort?
- Why does Jesus say the gospel is hidden from the "wise and learned"?** Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2
  - Think back over the last few weeks. In what areas of your life could you be categorized as the wise and learned that Jesus mentions?
  - What does it look like to receive the Word like "little children"?
- In Matthew 11, Jesus calls His followers to take His yoke upon them.** What is a yoke? How does Romans 6:17 point to the reality of a yoke in all our lives?
  - How do Jesus' words "come to me" and "take up my yoke" help us understand the gospel?
  - What kind of yokes do we carry? What are some of the burdens of your soul?
  - "Christ's burden is light, and His yoke is easy". What does that mean? See 1 John 5:2-4 for help.
  - Using Matthew 11:28-30, how would you respond to someone that says the Christian life is burdensome?
  - How have you experienced the rest that Christ gives us? What is it like?
- Christ describes himself as "gentle and lowly."** What does it mean to be gentle and lowly? How does Philippians 2:6-8 shed light on this?
  - How does the heart of Christ give us comfort when we think of His posture toward us?
  - What are some common misconceptions about God that this description confronts?
- What is unique about Christ?** Trace His unmatched character through the following passages: Hebrews 2:14-18; 3:14-16; John 14:6; John 10:30; Colossians 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.
  - In your own words, use Matthew 11:28-30 to speak against the idea of works-righteousness.
  - Take time to find rest in Jesus.

"You are God's plan, and there is no Plan B!" ~Chris Hodges

Rev. Randall J. Schlak, Senior Pastor  
Rev. James Greenwalt, Assistant Pastor

Please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today.

There are two simple ways to do this:

- Scan the QR code and fill out the online attendance form.
- Use the worship card found in your pew. You may drop it in the offering plate or simply leave it in your pew after you fill it out.



**LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**"The Red Letters of Jesus"**

**Wednesday Worship Services**

**February 28** - Forgiving with Christ

**March 6** - Serving Christ

**March 13** - Generosity

**March 20** - Going for Christ

**1:00pm - Chapel; 7:00pm - Sanctuary**

**Each worship service is preceded by a meal:**

**12:00 noon and 6:00pm (5:30pm confirmands)**

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday, March 28** - Dining with Christ

**(1:00pm - Chapel; 7:00pm - Sanctuary**

**Holy Communion at both services)**

**Good Friday, March 29** - Dwelling with Christ

**1:00pm and 7:00pm - Sanctuary**

**Easter Eve, March 30** - 5:00pm

**Easter Sunday Services, March 31**

**7:30am with Holy Communion;**

**9:00am and 10:30am**

**Easter Egg Hunt to follow Easter Sunday**

**10:30am service. Bring your Easter Basket!!**

*\*all 7pm services & 10:30am Easter Service will be livestreamed*

*Being with Christ*

THE

RED  
LETTERS

of Jesus

*...she did what she could do*  
*...this poor widow has put in more than all the others*  
*...is like the wise man*  
*...therefore go*  
*...come to me, all who are weary*  
*...then neither do I condemn you*

February 21, 2024  
1:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
1800 W. Maple  
Birmingham, Michigan 48009