

The Red Letters of Jesus

February 28, 2024

Theme: Forgiving 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 28: “Forgiving with Christ (even forgiving ourselves)”; continuing March 6 with: “Serving Christ”; and on 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) Clarinet Trio

(7:00) Jan Pflieger

Opening Hymn 171

Upon the Cross Extended

1. Upon the cross extended, see, world, thy Lord suspended.
Thy Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself hath freely given to shame and blows and bitter death.
2. Come hither now and ponder, ‘twill fill thy soul with wonder,
Blood streams from every pore. Through grief whose depth none knoweth,
From His great heart there floweth sigh after sigh of anguish o’er.
3. ‘Tis I who should be smitten, my doom should here be written:
Bound hand and foot in hell. The fetters and the scourging,
The floods around Thee surging, ‘tis I who have deserved them well.

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: From that time on Jesus began to preach,

C: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

P: Leave your gift there in front of the altar.

C: First go and be reconciled to them;

P: then come and offer your gift.

C: And forgive us our debts,

P: as we also have forgiven our debtors.

C: Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

P: For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged,

C: and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

P: Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye

C: and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

P: How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’

C: when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

P: You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye,

C: and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound - that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

Scripture Reading

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, **“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”** Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, **“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”** “No one, sir,” she said. **“Then neither do I condemn you,”** Jesus declared. **“Go now and leave your life of sin.”**

Sermon

John 8:1-11

“The Red Letters of Jesus: ‘Then Neither Do I Condemn You’”

Rev. Randall J. Schlak

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) Ave Verum Corpus (Hail True Body) – Mozart
Clarinet Trio

(7:00pm) He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word – arr. Hogan
Jim Rose Jr., vocalist

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 158

Glory Be to Jesus

1. Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins!
2. Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!
3. Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
Which from endless torments did the world redeem!

Postlude

(1:00) Clarinet Trio

(7:00) Jan Pflieger

Thanks and appreciation to:
The Clarinet Trio and Jim Rose Jr. for providing special music at the services.

Pianist/Organist

1:00 - Steve SeGraves

7:00 - Jan Pflieger

Ushers

1:00 - Bob Stewart

7:00 - Keith Lewis, captain; Dave Peterson, Rick Russ,
Arnie Glesmann, Brian Vautaw, Kevin Hessen, Rudy Becker

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 Brian Fish

Our Lenten Meal Preparers:

Lunch: Michele Margosian

Dinner: Women’s Ministry

The Red Letters of Jesus: Digging Deeper

1. How is this situation a trap for Jesus?
 - a. What would the Pharisees accuse Jesus of if He told them to let her go?
 - b. If He told them to stone her?
 - c. How does He spring the trap (verse 7)?
2. How would the woman just caught in adultery have felt?
 - a. What was the significance of Jesus' question in verse 10?
3. How does Jesus' response to the woman exemplify "grace and truth" (John 1:17)?
 - a. How does Jesus demonstrate by His words and actions that God is doing a "new thing" with the coming of the kingdom
4. How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face your sins?
5. How are we to treat people who have sinned against us?
6. Can you remember a time when you experienced a desire to avenge a hurtful act?
 - a. Did you take revenge? Why or why not? If you did, was revenge satisfying?
7. What can you learn from Jesus about helping a friend who has fallen?

*"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."
~Lewis B. Smedes*

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:

1. Scan the QR code and fill out the online attendance form.
2. 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
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
Maunder 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*

Forgiving 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 28, 2024
1:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
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Birmingham, Michigan 48009