

The Red Letters of Jesus

March 13, 2024

Theme: Generosity

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, March 13: “Generosity (The Law of Generosity)”; and next week, 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name - I’m fixed upon it; name of God’s redeeming love.
2. Hither to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast bro’t me to this place;
And I know Thy hand will bring me, safely home by Thy good grace;
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with His precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee;
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

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: And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt,

C: hand over your coat as well.

P: If anyone forces you to go one mile,

C: go with them two miles.

P: Give to the one who asks you,

C: and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

P: You have heard that it was said,

C: ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

P: Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others

C: to be seen by them.

P: If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

C: So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets,

P: as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets,

C: to be honored by others.

P: Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

C: But when you give to the needy,

P: do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

C: so that your giving may be in secret.

P: Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Hymn of the Day 151

Christ, the Life of All The Living

1. Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe,
Thro’ Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
2. Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
3. Thou hast borne the smiting only that my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. **“Truly I tell you,”** he said, **“this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”**

Sermon

Luke 21:1-4

“The Red Letters of Jesus: ‘This poor widow has put in more than all..’”

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) Via Dolorosa – Sprague/Borop
Kate DeBoer, vocalist

(7:00pm) I Feel the Spirit Moving – arr. Hayes
Justin Wicker, 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 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:
Kate DeBoer and Justin Wicker for providing special music at the services.

Ushers

1:00 - Bob Stewart

7:00 - Jim Grove, captain; Jim Endress, Peter Pridmore,
Cindy Grove, David Hamada, Ryan Jones

Altar Guild

Barb Grattan, Karen Rose, Sara Amos, Jennifer Dobring,
Robin Swift, Carole Citron, Polly Millichamp

Audio/Video Operators

7:00 - Bruce Helmke and David Hardoin

Our Lenten Meal Preparers

Lunch: Sue Linden

Dinner: Small Group Bible Study

The Red Letters of Jesus: Digging Deeper

1. Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others? How would you like to grow in being generous to others?
2. We've all been given resources of time, money, and giftedness. In what area would you most like to grow in being more generous to others?
3. Consider someone in your life today who would benefit from your generosity. How can you demonstrate generosity to that person today or this week?

Verses For Further Consideration

You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:11)

The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives. (Psalm 37:21)

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed. (Proverbs 19:17)

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

"If someone were to look through your bank statements and credit card purchases, would they be able to tell that you're a follower of Jesus?"
~Zach Zehnder

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 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*

Generosity

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

March 13, 2024
1:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.

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