

RESURRECTION NEWS



MARCH 2021

Pastor's Letter

March 2021

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite Lenten hymns is “O Christ, You Walked the Road” (#424 in the Lutheran Service Book). It’s a simple, yet catchy tune, and its words recall Matthew’s account of our Lord’s temptation in the wilderness (you can find that story in Matthew 4:1-11). We heard Mark’s version of this story in worship a couple of weeks ago. But in typical Mark fashion, he barely gives us any details (in fact, he only devotes two verses to the story – Mark 1:12-13!). Clearly, Mark is focused on other things. Matthew and Luke, however, give us a much more detailed account of our Lord’s temptation. Since we are singing a portion of “O Christ, You Walked the Road” in place of the Introit each Sunday in Lent, I want to take a few minutes to meditate on this hymn and the story from Matthew 4 that it recalls:

*O Christ, You walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r and fought our ancient foe.*

This is the great mystery of Christ becoming a man—he walked in our shoes. He faced the same sufferings and trials that we face. He was tempted in every way that we are. *Lord Jesus, we thank you that in the wilderness, you confronted the temptations of the devil and overcame him on our behalf.*

*No bread of earth alone can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, the food Your grace imparts.*

The first temptation that the devil gave to Jesus was to abuse his divine power to feed his hungry belly. But drawing on the words of Deuteronomy, Jesus said, “Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Deut. 8:3). *Lord Jesus, help us to depend on your word alone to sustain us through this life.*

*No binding sign we ask, no wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone in Your unswerving love.*

The second temptation that the devil gave to Jesus was to throw himself off of the very top of the temple and trust that God’s angels would save him. But drawing on the words of Deuteronomy, Jesus said, “Do not test the Lord your God” (Deut. 6:16). *Lord Jesus, help us to trust in you alone and to not put you to the test by our recklessness and unfaithfulness.*

*When lures of easy gain with promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; our wills with Yours align.*

The final temptation that the devil gave to Jesus was to fall down and worship him, thus avoiding the pain and suffering of the cross. But drawing on the words of Deuteronomy, Jesus said, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him” (Deut. 6:13). *Lord Jesus, help us set aside our own desires to wholeheartedly worship and serve you.*

*O Christ, You walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour to fight our ancient foe.*

Lord Jesus, we recognize that on our own, we are helpless against the temptations of sin. Stay with us as we fight against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. Guide us to place our trust in you and the redemption that you won for us on the cross. Amen.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Akers

Notes from your Deaconess

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Forty days seem long
When we await joyful news.
Remember. Return.

When March arrives each year, I relish the longer hours of daylight, the “spring forward” of the clocks, the anticipation of seeing spring flowers and budding tree branches. But I also remember the big snowstorms which can arrive at this time, the mud, the waiting for spring. This year on the Ides of March we recall that a year ago we suspended in-person Sunday church services for about two and a half months. We also will wait all the way through the month for Easter to arrive in early April.

Our Sunday Bible study narratives focus our attention for two Sundays on David – once before and once after he became king of Israel. The remaining two Sundays will take up Solomon to consider both the wisdom he received from the LORD, and the foolish paths which he later followed. How well do you know these stories? When did you last consider them closely? God’s word has more things to show us each time we listen and study it, about both himself and about ourselves. We can learn from each other, both old and young, as we interact around God’s word. We will have all ages meet together for Sunday School times. We will have some singing, discussion, and plan some activity or craft for the younger members of the church family to do during part of the meeting time.

Our lectionary readings this month in the Old Testament continue through Genesis with stories of all those dysfunctional families which God used for his purposes, just into the beginning of Exodus reaching Passover on the first of April, which is Maundy Thursday this year. The gospel of Mark, which we’ll read in small chunks, moves swiftly as Jesus preaches, teaches, heals, performs signs, and challenges his hearers then and now to consider who he really is – the word of God made flesh for us.

I plan to hold Saturday morning Bible studies for women on March 13 and 27. I hope to be in-person both days, but also plan to have the Zoom option for meeting available whether or not the weather cooperates those days. We will continue our readings in the minor prophets. We spend about an hour and a half together.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. Zephaniah 3:17

Worship Schedule:

Sundays:

- 8:30am – Worship
- 9:45am – Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:45am – Worship (live streamed)

Wednesdays (3/3, 3/10, 3/17, & 3/24):

- Noon – Worship (live streamed)

Holy Week (3/28 – 4/4):

- Palm Sunday (3/28) (Divine Service w/Procession of Palms):
 - Worship at 8:30am & 10:45am
 - Sunday School at 9:45am
- Maundy Thursday (4/1) (Divine Service w/Corporate Confession & Absolution):
 - Worship at Noon & 7pm
- Good Friday (4/2) (Good Friday Chief Liturgy w/Holy Communion):
 - Worship at Noon & 7pm
- Easter Sunday (4/4) (Divine Service):
 - Worship at 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am
 - No Sunday School

Thursday Bible Study:

Thursday Bible Study will continue to meet throughout the season of Lent. We will not meet, however, on Maundy Thursday (4/1). We are continuing our study of Ezra & Nehemiah. Join us at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall or 6:00pm via Zoom. Contact Pastor Akers for more information.

Thank You's:

The Travis Mills Foundation expresses its deepest gratitude for your gift of \$1000. Your giving ensures our recalibrated veteran families are able to connect with others who share similar experiences, relax with their families, and reset for the challenges life will present them in the future.

Warmly,

US Army SSG (Ret.) Travis Mills and the Travis Mills Foundation Team

Thank you for your caring donation to Concordia Seminary's Food Bank! Your support is a true blessing to our students, the large majority of whom live with limited means. The Food Bank, in providing a wide variety of no-cost, healthy foods, ensures that our students' nutritional needs are met while also providing household budget relief.

God's blessings to you,

Hannah Loum, Interim Food Bank Coordinator

Defending the Faith

Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.

Last month we talked about the most potent argument that an atheist has against the existence of God – the problem of evil.

Their argument goes like this: If there really is a loving God, how could he allow [some awful thing] to happen? To be honest, that sounds good if you say it fast – but let's look deeper and see two places where it fails.

Fail #1. Free Will. If God strictly controlled everything we think, do and say, He could certainly prevent people from committing evil acts. But if that were the case, could we genuinely love and serve Him?

The simple answer is “no”, in the same way that your microwave oven cannot love you. It will do what you tell it to do, but it's acting in pre-programmed, mechanical ways, not striving to love and serve you.

God created us to love and serve Him – and to shower us with His own love. That simply doesn't work if we are nothing more than meat-machines following a divine computer program. No, the ability to show true love for God (or anybody else for that matter), requires that we offer that love freely, ergo, free will.

A necessary complication of free will is that we are free to do either good or evil. Living in the post-fall world, we are surrounded by opportunities to do evil and as much as we work not to succumb, we often do. Frankly, it seems that there are a lot of people around us that don't even seem to try to resist!

That said, a beautiful feature of free will is that we are also free to receive God's Grace and come to the foot of the Cross, seek forgiveness and as a response of gratitude for the grace we are given, to do good works (2 Timothy 3:17). I don't advise it, but we are also free to reject it.

Fail #2. Knowing the Mind of God. The atheist's objection is that if He exists, God would never allow so much evil in the world.

But we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). There are times in life when we are assaulted by some evil act and we have no idea what good God could possibly intend to come from it. The story of Joseph and his brothers is a perfect example (Genesis 50:20). The brothers thought they were eliminating “daddy's favorite” from their lives, while God used their evil act to ensure the survival of His people through a famine.

Like a parent who puts their child through the painful and scary process of immunization, the child cannot comprehend the ultimate good that the parent has in mind – all they know is that the needle hurts.

Neither do we know how God will use our pains and challenges for the good – and this is where our faith (better described as trust) is put to the test. But blessed is the one who perseveres to the end, for he will be given the crown of life. (James 1:12, Revelation 3:11).

What we do know from the very character of God is that whatever He does or allows to be done, He has a morally sufficient reason for doing it. That knowledge may not comfort us in our deepest moments of grief, but it is a truth that we can cling to as we move through our suffering.

Next month - the argument for God's existence from the fine tuning of the universe. This one is fun!

PS – I'm always ready to hear your comments, criticisms, complaints or encouragement. Contact me at charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com or my cell at 207-223-3000.

- Charlie MacPherson, SDG

SDG is shamelessly ~~stolen~~ borrowed from Johann Sebastian Bach. It stands for Soli Deo Gloria – to the Glory of God Alone. He appended it to each of his compositions. I'm no Bach, but I do like the reminder.

Member of the Month

Avis Grant's story is that of a true Mainer—sort of! She was born in Portsmouth, NH—but only because it was the closest hospital to Eliot, Maine where her family lived. The street Avis lived on ended at the Piscataqua River, and immediately across the river is Portsmouth.

Avis has an older brother and two younger sisters—4 children under school age at one time. Avis' father worked at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, but purchased a farm, moving his family to Cornville to do dairy farming the year Avis turned 11. She had to go from a "regular" school with a whole room full of a single grade, to a one-room school house with all 8 grades in the same room. It was quite a change, but Avis feels she benefitted from it. She then went to Skowhegan High School. Between her freshman and sophomore years, she served as nanny to a family. The children loved her and they did well together, so the family invited Avis to live with them. She stayed there during sophomore and junior years of high school—going home on weekends. To this day, the children she cared for are dear friends.

Having earned scholarships, Avis attended Central Maine General Hospital School of Nursing in Lewiston where she graduated with a Diploma in Nursing. After graduation, Avis went to Florida and worked through the winter—but as spring rolled around, she quickly headed back to Maine and away from "that heat!" Avis took a job at the Waterville Osteopathic Hospital (now Inland Hospital) where she eventually became the manager of the obstetrics department. She continued working in a per diem arrangement even after retirement in 2005.

Avis has been married to two terrific gentlemen, both having passed of cancer. She was married to Bud for 15 years, widowed for 14 years, married to Jim for 13 years—so thinks maybe after 12 years she'll meet someone—BUT, she says if she does, "They'll have to sign an affidavit that they do not have or plan to have, and won't blame her if they do get cancer."

Avis is the third longest in seniority at LCR. Her family was Methodist, but she and Bud were married at LCR, and the following year Avis was baptized and became a member while she was expecting their daughter, Kathy. Kathy works at the Department of Motor Vehicles certifying commercial truckers. Kathy has two children, Daniel and Chelsea. Dan is a roofer and lives in Avis' home; Chelsea is a medical assistant for an orthopedic group in Rockland.

Kelly Grant, a nurse who worked for Avis, introduced Avis to her father, Jim Grant. They became good friends and married some time later—giving Avis three more grandchildren: Cameron, Jimmy, and Devyn. In fact, Avis was working when Devyn was born and was the first person to hold her—not realizing this would be her grandchild! Bringing things full circle, Devyn now lives in Eliot where Avis lived when she was born!

Avis' interests include knitting, reading, and gardening. Her knitting is a charity and gift-giving endeavor including our Christmas Fair and the bank drives for those in need. (Avis belongs to the knitting group in Waterville.) Her gardening used to include vegetables but recently grandson, Daniel, has taken that over. Now she concentrates on flowers, and is working on her wooded areas where she's putting shade-loving plants under the pines: It delights her to see a pop of color spring up! Avis loves to read—especially historical novels, and even some fantasy fiction. Her cousin's husband, Quentin Grady, wrote a series called "Ghost Eagle" which has mesmerized her of late!

Avis has served LCR in many areas: LWML (currently the secretary), Altar Guild, Sunday School, church financial secretary when things were all done by ledger. Avis believes that if you give away your wealth to good causes and missions, it comes back to you many times. She feels that's when LCR turned around and developed a firm foundation—when they started giving to missions instead of focusing all of their funds on LCR itself.



Avis' hope for young folks just starting out is that they think beyond themselves; keeping in touch with their faith and thinking of what they can do for others, not just what is best for themselves. She believes seniors' true peace and happiness comes by keeping in touch with friends and family, and encourages people to call, send a card, and send an email. She feels it's a Godsend to be in connection with others regardless of age.

Avis had hip replacement surgery last year and is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on the opposite knee on March 29. She'll have many friends wishing her well and praying for her, but maybe none as constant as her little chocolate Labrador, Lucy. Lucy is two years old and is a joy to Avis. She loves to play, and if Avis isn't paying attention to her, will prance all around the house until Avis gives her some attention.

March Stewardship

	<u>March 7</u>	<u>March 14</u>	<u>March 21</u>	<u>March 28</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	10:45 Evan Farr	10:45 Emmy Carlson	10:45 Allison Farr	10:45 Andrew Farr
<u>Worship Assistant</u>	8:30 Glenn Carlson Sr. 10:45 Dan Callahan	8:30 Charlie MacPherson 10:45 Chris Batson	8:30 Charlie MacPherson 10:45 Steve Farr	8:30 Glenn Carlson Sr. 10:45 Mark Larsen
<u>Ushers</u>	8:30 Rick Drageland 10:45 John Ayotte	8:30 Jeff Sammons 10:45 Glenn Carlson Jr.	8:30 Mark Larsen 10:45 Wayne Pelletier	8:30 Rick Drageland 10:45 Chris Batson
<u>Cantor</u>	8:30 Jared Goldsmith 10:45 Allison Farr	8:30 Sharon Conover 10:45 Steve Farr	8:30 Jared Goldsmith 10:45 Fernando Gouvea	8:30 Sharon Conover 10:45 Allison Farr
<u>Greeters</u>	8:30 The Dragelands 10:45 Dorthy McAllister	8:30 Sharon Klipp 10:45 The Batsons	8:30 The MacPhersons 10:45 The Larsens	8:30 Sharon Klipp 10:45 Dorthy McAllister
<u>Altar Care</u>	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Katie Huesers	Joan Drageland



Monthly Worship

March 3

Third Wednesday in Lent

Psalm: 22:12-15

Holy Gospel: John 19:28-30

March 7

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 19:1-9, 14

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Epistle: Ephesians 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Holy Gospel: John 2:13-22

March 10

Fourth Wednesday in Lent

Psalm: 22:16-21

Holy Gospel: John 19:23-24

March 14

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 107:1-9

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

March 17

Fifth Wednesday in Lent

Psalm: 22:22-24

Holy Gospel: Luke 23:39-43

March 21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 119:9-16

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

March 24

Sixth Wednesday in Lent

Psalm: 22:25-31

Holy Gospel: Luke 23:32-38

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Psalm: 118:19-29

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: Mark 14:1—15:47

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar find peculiar about the men he ordered thrown into the furnace?

A) they were singing and praying B) they were walking around (C) they were laughing at the king (D) they were reading scrolls

2. Exactly what died during the flood, if it was not on the ark?

A) every human being in the whole region B) every living creature in the whole region C) every human being in the whole world D) every living creature in the whole world

3. Who carried the cross while Jesus was led to the place of crucifixion?

A) Jesus himself B) Peter of Galilee C) Simon of Cyrene D) a soldier of Rome

4. What did Pilot do upon hearing that Jesus hailed from Galilee?

A) shuttled Him over to King Herod because Galilee was in his jurisdiction B) threw him into prison because Galileans were known as murderers and rebels C) had Him flogged to try and change his answer D) apologized and gave Him some food and a new change of clothes

5. Who can be saved?

A) only people who obey the Bible's commands regularly B) only people who have not committed an evil act C) only the people who genuinely help others regularly D) every person who calls upon the name of the Lord

6. Who said this: "Be ye angry, and sin not"?

A) Paul B) Jesus C) Moses D) Abraham



3/4 Esther Gould
Karen Mattson
3/5 Evan Farr
3/6 Beth Morris
3/11 Bjorg Boschen
3/12 Wayne Pelletier
3/14 Charlie MacPherson
3/17 Miriam Schiebel
3/21 Glenn Carlson
3/25 Kari Farr
Mike Hein
3/28 James Pryor
3/30 John Gould



BAPTISM BIRTHDAY

3/4 Tyler Wilson
3/10 Evelyn Gaug
3/13 Fernando Gouvea
3/15 Vary Fischer
3/20 Fred Ouellette
Fred Ouellette Jr.
3/22 Wayne Pelletier
3/?? Kemp Anderson
Kari Farr
Steven Farr
Evelyn Gilbert



3/18 Kevin and Sharon Kinter
3/23 Rev. Robert and Vary Fischer



Confirmation Anniversary

3/16 Becky Cote
3/17 Gail Carrano
3/27 Mark Larsen
Benjamin Schiebel

FOR A FEW CHUCKLES

OOPS!

(Last month the punch line of the last joke was cut off.
So, here it is in its entirety.)

Hannah always behaves beautifully at Sunday school; however, she gets a bit fidgety when her parents linger in the Fellowship Hall too long. "Mommy, why do we have to sit here so long?" she asked one week.

"Daddy has to drink enough coffee to wake up for the drive home, dear."

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A pastor paid a visit to a member of his congregation who was recuperating in the hospital. As the doctor was leaving the patient's room, she explained that because Roy was on some potent pain medication, she and the other doctors on call had been asking him questions to determine if he was disoriented.

"So, how are you doing?" the pastor asked Roy.

"I'm feeling fine," Roy answered, "but I don't think much of these young doctors. Not one of 'em know who the president is."

Bible Quiz Answers

1. A (Matthew 25:1-3)
2. D (1 Kings 3:5-9)
3. B (Numbers 17:8)
4. A (Revelation 21:1-2, 14)
5. C (1 Kings 11:3)
6. D (Luke 6:31)

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

3/1	Genesis 18:1-15 / Mark 6:14-34
3/2	Genesis 21:1-21 / Mark 6:35-56
3/3	Genesis 22:1-19 / Mark 7:1-23
3/4	Genesis 24:1-31 / Mark 7:24-37
3/5	Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67 / Mark 8:1-21
3/6	Genesis 27:1-29 / Mark 8:22-38
3/7	Genesis 27:30-45; 8:10-22 / Mark 9:1-13
3/8	Genesis 29:1-30 / Mark 9:14-32
3/9	Genesis 35:1-29 / Mark 9:33-50
3/10	Genesis 37:1-36 / Mark 10:1-12
3/11	Genesis 39:1-23 / Mark 10:13-31
3/12	Genesis 40:1-23 / Mark 10:32-52
3/13	Genesis 41:1-27 / Mark 11:1-19
3/14	Genesis 41:28-57 / Mark 11:20-33
3/15	Genesis 42:1-34, 38 / Mark 12:1-12
3/16	Genesis 43:1-28 / Mark 12:13-27
3/17	Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34 / Mark 12:28-44
3/18	Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28 / Mark 13:1-23
3/19	Genesis 47:1-31 / Mark 13:24-37
3/20	Genesis 49:29-50:26 / Mark 14:1-11
3/21	Exodus 1:1-22 / Mark 14:12-31
3/22	Exodus 2:1-22 / Mark 14:32-52
3/23	Exodus 2:23-3:22 / Mark 14:53-72
3/24	Exodus 4:1-18 / Mark 14:1-15
3/25	Exodus 4:19-31 / mark 15:16-32
3/26	Exodus 5:1 – 6:1 / Mark 15:33-47
3/27	Exodus 7:1-25 / Mark 16:1-20
3/28	Exodus 8:1-12 / Hebrews 1:1-14
3/29	Exodus 9:1-28 / Hebrews 2:1-18
3/30	Exodus 9:29-10:20 / Hebrews 3:1-19
3/31	Exodus 10:21-11:10 / Hebrews 4:1-16

(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)

Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *Do one reading in the morning and the other in the evening.*
- *Keep a journal or make a mental note of one thought that you would like to remember from this reading.*
- *Read and discuss the daily reading with a family member or friend.*
- *Choose one verse to commit to memory, reciting it through the day.*
- *Speak to God in prayer about something from the reading that impressed or confused you in this reading.*
- *If you miss a day or two (or three) and fall behind, don't worry and don't quit! Either set aside some time to catch up or skip those readings and move on.*
- *If you're using another reading schedule or guide, stick with it. The important thing is to be in the Word daily.*