

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE 2

“Love Unknown”

7:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

8305 NOTTINGHAM PARKWAY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40222

Vacancy Pastors: *Rev. Ron Richeson, Rev. Mark Whitsett* Principal: *Chip Davidson*
TLC Coordinator: *Corrine Burmeister* Director of Music: *Scott Kamman*
Deaconess: *Margy Whitsett* Tonight's organist: *Margy Whitsett*

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We warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus!

We are always glad to have you worship with us.

*If you do not have a regular church home,
we invite you to make our church home yours.*

- † Our worship services are on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We also invite and encourage you to join us in Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:45 AM.
- † Assisted hearing devices, children's bulletins, and large print service folders are available -- please ask an usher for one.
- † While we encourage children to be present in worship, the upstairs cry room opposite the elevator is available for you.
- † Our worship services can now be viewed on the church's Facebook page (live or after the service), as well as on our YouTube channel. *The Lutheran Hour* can be heard on Sundays at 9:00 AM at KAWZ (102.7FM).

Prayer before worship:

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

Prelude and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

What Prompted Christ

[tune: WONDROUS LOVE]



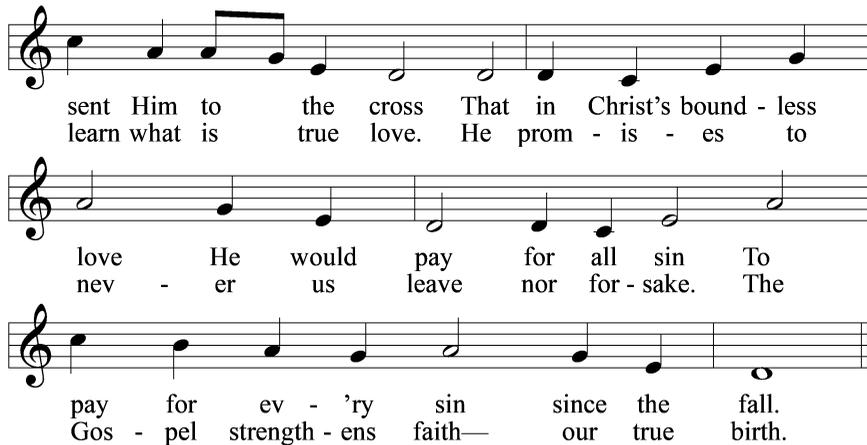
1 What prompt - ed Christ, our Lord, to come
2 Why did our heav'n - ly Fa - ther send



down to the cross? What prompt - ed Him to die for my
down His dear Son? Why did He send His Son down to



soul? It was the Fa - ther's love That
earth? It shows that God is love; We



sent Him to the cross That in Christ's bound - less
learn what is true love. He prom - is - es to
love - He would pay for all sin To
nev - er us leave nor for - sake. The
pay for ev - 'ry sin since the fall.
Gos - pel strength - ens faith— our true birth.

Text: James Pierce, Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835

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Please stand.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

Colossians 2:6; Exodus 3:8; John 8:51; Colossians 2:9, adapt.; Psalm 124:8

- P** As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.
- C** I have come down to deliver them.
- P** If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.
- C** In [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.
- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C** who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 136

- P** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
- C** for his steadfast love endures forever.
- P** Give thanks to the God of gods,
- C** for his steadfast love endures forever.
- P** Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
- C** for his steadfast love endures forever;

- P** to him who alone does great wonders,
- C** for his steadfast love endures forever;
- P** to him who by understanding made the heavens,
- C** for his steadfast love endures forever;
- P** to him who spread out the earth above the waters,
- C** for his steadfast love endures forever;
- P** to him who made the great lights,

C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P the sun to rule over the day,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P the moon and stars to rule over the night,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;

P to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P and brought Israel out from among them,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;

P to him who divided the Red Sea in two,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;

P to him who led his people through the wilderness,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P to him who struck down great kings,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P and killed mighty kings,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;

P Sihon, king of the Amorites,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P and Og, king of Bashan,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P and gave their land as a heritage,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;

P a heritage to Israel his servant,
C for his steadfast love endures forever.
P It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;
P and rescued us from our foes,
C for his steadfast love endures forever;

P he who gives food to all flesh,
C for his steadfast love endures forever.
P Give thanks to the God of heaven,
C for his steadfast love endures forever.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jonah 3–4

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand in reverence to the Gospel.

Gospel Reading

John 15:12-17

[Jesus said,] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved

you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

**5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.**

Yet cheerful He
 To suffering goes
 That He His foes
 From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
 No story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962
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Sermon

“Love Unknown”

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 426, sts. 1, 4

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a
 Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,
 count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Prayers

- P** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.
C **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**
- P** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.
C **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**
- P** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.
C **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**
- P** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.
C **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**
- P** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.
C **Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**
- P** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.
C **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**
- P** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land.
C **Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Christ, our Lord.**
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
C **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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 grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

You Are the Way; through You Alone

LSB 526



1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant



we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that



God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Tune: The CL Psalms of David, 1615, Edinburgh, Text and tune: Public domain

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Readings for next Wednesday (3/4): Psalm 6, 1 Peter 2:21-25, John 6:61-69

Our mission is to teach, love, and connect...teach all ages about Jesus, love one another as God loves us, and connect with others in a hurting world.