

“UNLESS A  
*kernel of wheat*

FALLS TO THE  
GROUND AND DIES,  
IT REMAINS ONLY A  
SINGLE SEED.

BUT IF IT DIES,  
IT PRODUCES  
*many seeds.”*

JOHN 12:24, NIV



# *New Life Ev. Lutheran Church Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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## **Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

*Before Service Prayer:* Father, You know the multitude of sins I have committed in my life and even this past week. Help me hate my sin more and grow in grace as I contemplate what Christ has done to forgive me and free me from sin's death grip. Open the eyes of my heart to see the glorious hope we have in Christ, Your love for all of the saints, and Your power at work in us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-21). Cause my heart to burn within me as we celebrate the gospel in song, learn and apply the gospel through the preached Word, and see the gospel in the sacraments. Amen.

*Today's Service:* *Service of the Word, NPH, Gathering Rite, GLA; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.*

### *Today's Theme:* **RETHINKING DEVOTED COMMITMENT**

Religious sociologists sometimes divide Christians into two groups: committed Christians and cultural Christians. The former are usually defined as those who are active in a congregation, who pray regularly, who read Scripture, etc. The latter are those individuals who call themselves Christian and perhaps have some Christian beliefs. Yet, they do not strive to live a Christian life. They are not interested in church involvement.

Those definitions are interesting when trying to understand shifts in American Christianity. However, they demonstrate a false assumption about the Christian religion. There is indeed a devoted commitment at the center of Christianity, but it is not man's commitment to God. Even believers will at times demonstrate lukewarm commitment at best. Instead, at the heart of Christianity we find God's devotion and commitment to us. It is a devoted commitment so strong that it put God on the cross.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 419 "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle" (CW93 122)

Gathering Rite (Congregation sings the refrain, Soloist sings the verses, Congregation sings the refrain as indicated throughout the song)

**Refrain**



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call God hears.

**Refrain:**

L: If You dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand? But with You there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.

**Refrain:**

L: O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me. My heart cries out for Your presence, it is You I seek.

**Refrain:**

**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.** (spoken)

**Confession, Kyrie, Absolution**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- L:     1. Lord Jesus, obedient in the desert:  
       2. Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation:  
       3. Lord Jesus, the flood of living water:



- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lord, have mer - cy.   | Lord, have mer - cy.   |
| 2. Christ, have mer - cy. | Christ, have mer - cy. |
| 3. Lord, have mer - cy.   | Lord, have mer - cy.   |

P: Having heard your confession, I assure you that our gracious Father in heaven has heard your prayer, and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken) (*immediately repeat the refrain*)

### ***Refrain***



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

### **The Collect**

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed Your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through His anguish, pain and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Isaiah 43:1-7** – In devoted commitment the LORD promises His people that even if they need to pass through raging waters or walk through a wall of fire, He will be right there with them.

But now, this is what the LORD says—

He who created you, Jacob,

He who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are Mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

I give Egypt for your ransom,

Cush and Seba in your stead.

<sup>4</sup> Since you are precious and honored in My sight,

and because I love you,

I will give people in exchange for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

I will bring your children from the east

and gather you from the west.

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’

and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’

Bring My sons from afar

and My daughters from the ends of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by My name,

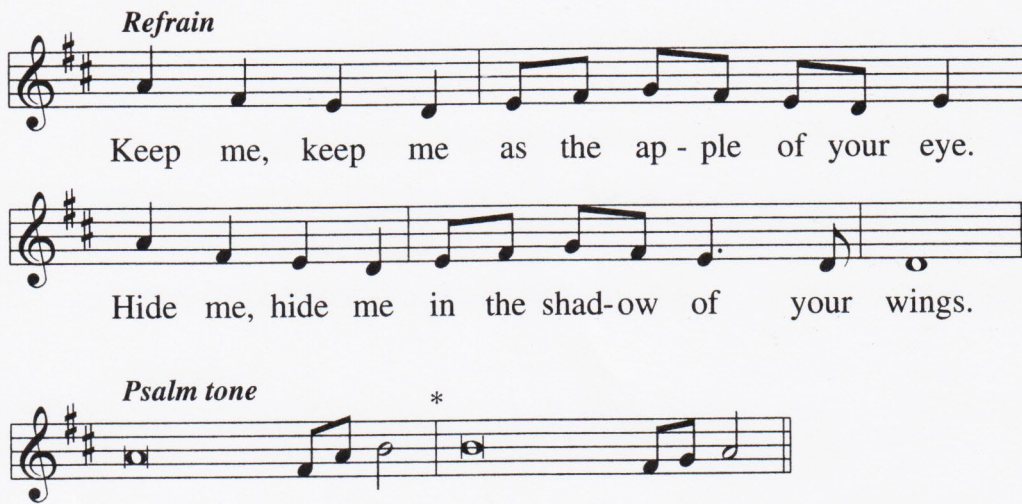
whom I created for My glory,

whom I formed and made.” (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**





I lift up my eyes to the hills.\*  
Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip,\*  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel\*  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

*Refrain*

The LORD watches over you,\*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The LORD will keep you from all harm,\*  
he will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over your coming and going\*  
both now and forevermore.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

The Second Lesson: **Hebrews 5:7-9** – Because He was truly human Jesus did not relish having to suffer for our salvation. Yet He submitted to the cross out of His devoted commitment to us.

<sup>7</sup> During His life on earth, Jesus prayed to God, who could save Him from death. He prayed and pleaded with loud crying and tears, and He was heard because of His devotion to God. <sup>8</sup> Although Jesus was the Son of God He learned to be obedient through His sufferings. <sup>9</sup> After He had finished His work, He became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys Him. (GW)

P: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45)

*Stand*

The Gospel Lesson: **John 12:20-33** – Though the thought of the cross troubled His soul, Jesus was committed to glorifying His Father’s name by winning eternal life for us.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not Mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**



*Sit*

Hymn of the Day: **CW 808** “Drawn to the Cross” (CW93 387)

The Sermon

Catechism / Confession of Faith

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

If you are not a member of New Life Lutheran Church, we do not want you to feel obligated to give an offering. (God wants us to be cheerful givers, not guilty givers!) We gather our offerings in church, *because the Bible teaches that giving is an act of worship*. May the Lord bless you, and may He use our gifts to be a blessing to many others. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life’s website. Once the offering is gathered, it will be placed on the Lord’s altar.



The Prayer of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

### Closing Prayer

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### The Blessing

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C: Amen**

The Closing Hymn: **CW 813** “He Will Hold Me Fast”

<b>Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week</b>
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*Cleaning this Week: James*

#### **Today—St. Patrick’s Day**

Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship in the fellowship hall at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Bible Class in the Café at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

#### **Tuesday—Spring Begins**

#### **Wednesday—Lenten Meal at 6:15 PM**

6<sup>th</sup> Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00 PM

#### **Friday—Men’s Bible Class at 11:30 AM**

#### **Sunday—Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday / Procession of the Palms Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible class at 10:45 AM

No Confirmation Class / Spring Break

#### **ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

Today, making use of a “word for word” video, the Bible class will continue a study of John’s Gospel, starting chapter 6 which covers Jesus feeding of the 5,000 and His subsequent sermon on Himself as the Bread of Life.

#### **FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET**

A new sign-up sheet has been posted for providing something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers January 2024 through April 2024. The month of April is still in need of people to sign up.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**



### **LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Meals begin at 6:15 PM on Wednesdays. The service begins at 7:00 PM. New Life will be privileged to have area WELS pastors conduct our services during the Lenten season.

March 20, Pastor Schultz, "Testimony" (Matthew 26:57-75)

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

March 24, Palm Sunday Procession of Palms at 9:30 AM

March 28, Maundy Thursday, Communion Service at 7:00 PM

March 29, Good Friday Tenebrae at 7:00 PM

March 31, Easter Sunday, breakfast at 8:30 AM, Easter worship at 9:30 AM, Easter Egg hunt at 10:45 AM

### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Easter breakfast will begin at 8:30 AM on Easter Sunday, March 31. If you'd like to bring something for the breakfast, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

### **EASTER POSTCARDS**

In today's bulletin you will find an Easter postcard. You can use the postcard to invite friends and neighbors to our Holy Week services. If you mail the postcard it will need two stamps or one of those 2 ounce stamps.

### **EASTER LILIES**

If you'd like to purchase an Easter lily, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Lilies cost \$10. The lilies will be used to adorn the Lord's chancel on Easter Sunday. Then you can take your lily home after the service.

### **PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION OF THE PALMS**

At the start of the Palm Sunday service, the kids in the congregation are invited to process with palm branches. The kids will gather in the fellowship hall prior to the service to get organized.

