

Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church

April 2nd, 2023
Palm Sunday

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Welcome: Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church. This is a safe space to bring your whole self. If there are ways we can make participation in worship easier for you, we will do our best to accommodate.

Worship: Masks: DuPage County community level is **Low**. Since we are at the low level, masks are optional in our building.

Communion: All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

For those worshipping from home: Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You will need your communion packet, this service folder, and if your phone is convenient, you can use it to pass the peace. Lighting a candle hallows your worship place. We distribute packets of pre-consecrated bread and wine (gluten free option is available) for those who call the church office. We are here for you!

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

*The assembly gathers in the narthex, so that all may enter in procession.
Palm branches are distributed before the service begins.*

ACCLAMATION

As the Service begins, the presiding minister and the assembly greet one another with the following verse repeated three times.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew the twenty first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

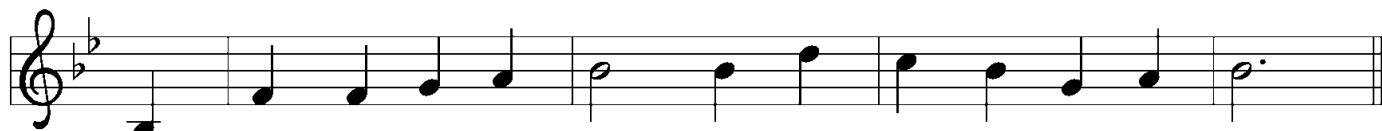
ELW 344

Verses 1-4

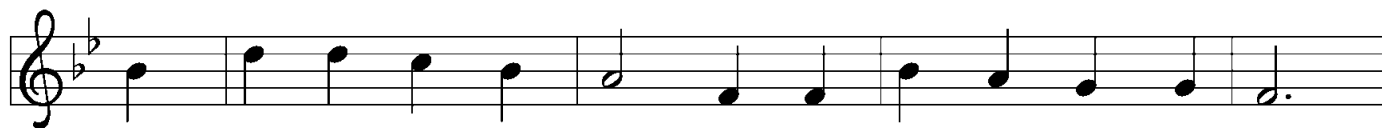
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

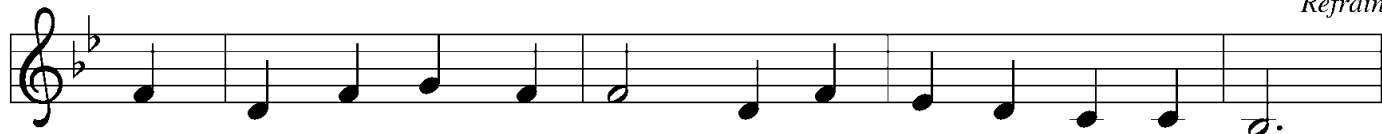


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Assembly is seated

YOUNG AT HEART SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

Word

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Zechariah 9 is the prophecy that was fulfilled with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The image of Jesus riding on a donkey is often interpreted as a symbol of his humility and servanthood, while his role as the Messiah who brings liberation, restoration, and a new covenant.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²**Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."**

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

**Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are able.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above ev'ry name. (Phil. 2:8-9)

THE GOSPEL READING: Revelation 7:9-17.

The holy scriptures according to Revelation, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal ;they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are able.

THE NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene's Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful especially for Toni, Penny, Ken, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, Gale, Don, Ron, Nancy and Cor. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “Peace be with you.” If you have your phone available text a word of peace to someone who is worshipping alone.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

Offering Reflection

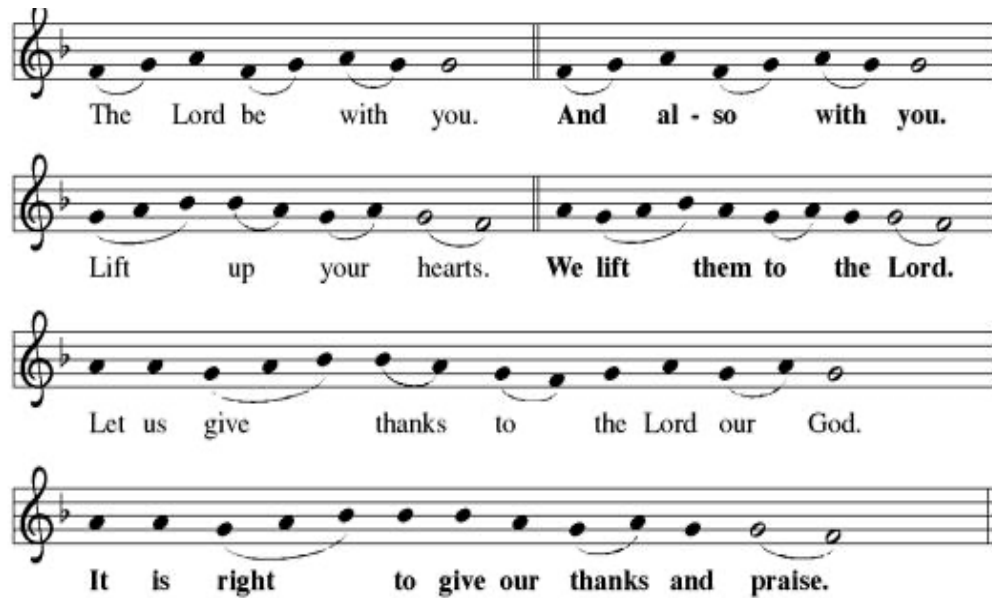
The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

God of good gifts,
 receive these and all our offerings
 as we present them in faithful service
 for the sake of your gospel.
 Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
 as you pour out your very presence
 through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are able.



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER... *join their unending hymn*



Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the

One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.

....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.
COMMUNION

*All are seated. As we sing When Peace Like a River, please take time to
prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

SONG DURING COMMUNION *When Peace Like a River*

ELW 785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

Hymn 346



1	Ride	on,	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	Hear	all	the	
2	Ride	on,	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly
3	Ride	on,	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	The	hosts	of	
4	Ride	on,	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly



tribes	ho	-	san	-	na	cry;	O	Sav	-	ior	meek,	your	road	pur	-
pomp	ride	on	to	die;	O	Christ,	your	tri	-	umphs	now	be	-		
an	-	gels	in	the	sky	look	down	with	sad	and	won	-	d	'ring	
pomp	ride	on	to	die,	bow	your	meek	head	to	mor	-	tal			



sue,	with	palms	and	scat	-	tered	gar	-	ments	strewed.			
gin	o'er	cap	-	tive	death	and	con	-	quered	sin.			
eyes	to	see	the	ap	-	proach	-	ing	sac	-	ri	-	fice.
pain,	then	take,	O	Christ,	your	pow'r	and	reign!					

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Organist

Lector

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Raymond Silhan III

Rosita Yao

Roberta Sejnost

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Judy Padera

Arlene Danielson & Bruce Danielson

Judy Padera

Sherry Sejnost

Announcements – 4-2-2023

This month the **Wine and Candles** are provided by **Marilynn Sells**.

Lunch Bunch In April, we will meet at Public Landing 800 W. 8th St., Lockport, on **Tuesday, April 11th, at 11:30 am**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Laurie Gustafson at 815-725-4776

Senior Spirits Senior Spirits will meet **Thursday, April 13th at Noon** (please note change of date). Please bring a dish to share and a beverage. We will be having the Darien Police Department join us to bring us up to date on the latest scams. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Sells at 630-927-9996.

Paint with Pastor **Friday, April 14th, at 6:00 pm** sign up to paint with Pastor Adam. He will go step by step in having you create your own painting to take home. You need to sign up for this event. Space is limited.

Adopt a Plot Do you have a green thumb? Would you like to help make the landscaping at Lord of Life beautiful? Come to the Adopt a Plot meeting on Sunday April, 23 at 11 AM and see how you can help. If you have questions, please call Arlene at 630 918-7890 or Judy Padera 630-235-2195.

Feed My Starving Children On **Saturday, April 22nd, from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm**, LoL has a set time to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. We will be hand-packing rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of

vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets, and shipped to reach the neediest children around the world. We can meet at the church and carpool together. You can register online at <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=4WV8EY> or you can sign up at church or by calling the church office at 630-323- 3161.

Donations - Please continue to support LoL with your generous contributions, either via the online donations, USPS or by putting them in the drop box outside the west entry. Thank you to everyone who have been coming out to do this. To access the secure electronic donations, go to our website at <http://www.lordoflifedarien.com/> and click on the “Give” tab on the top right. With your help we will be able to continue to serve you and the community “*Sharing God’s Love.*”

Please pray for members:

Toni Blesy	Penny Scukanec	Jim Eckwall
Cor Peterson	Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie
Don Dibbern	Ron Matta	Nancy Swanson
Kerry Spitznagle	Ken Gulliford	

A full list of relatives, friends and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday. A list will also be printed in the bulletin the first Sunday of the month.

Last Week’s Giving – \$3758.00

Electronic Donation for the month of March - \$912.52

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	4/2	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship
Tuesday	4/4	5:30 AM	Elections (Fellowship Hall)
		5:15 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		7:00 PM	Troop 56 (West Room)
Wednesday	4/5	7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time (AA)
Thursday	4/6	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday (Prince of Egypt)
Friday	4/7	9:30 AM	Cards
		7:00 PM	Good Friday
Saturday	4/8	9:00 AM	Seventh Day Adventist
		Noon	SDA Luncheon
		2:00 PM	Holy Saturday Church Cleaning
Sunday	4/9	10:00 AM	EASTER SUNDAY
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship