

## The Cosmic Love of God



The prologue of John's gospel begins with the story of creation, connecting the Word that became flesh in Jesus with the bringing forth of life and all things. Then, as the gospel continues, the testimony of John the Baptist is shared, which continues to point the reader to Jesus' significance for the whole world, not only one group or people. John, upon seeing Jesus approach him in the wilderness, declares "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). The Gospel of John highlights the cosmic reach of Jesus and the purpose for which Jesus was sent. God loves the whole world, not just part of it. And God loves us, all of us. God's purpose in sending Jesus is "that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

Our world and our lives include darkness and sin, evil and brokenness. But God's love for us and for the world is complete, passionate, and sacrificial. God is not willing to settle for part of the world, or for some of us. Instead of condemning all that is not pleasing, God gave God's own son, lifted up on the cross, so that all might have the possibility of eternal life. The light of God's love shining down from the cross demonstrates the totality of God's love and proclaims God's desire to transform the dark places in this world into places of light, healing, and salvation.

-From Sundays and Seasons



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## LENT 4

March 11, 2018 11:00 am

*Please be sure your cell phone has been turned off. Thank you for being considerate!*

## GATHERING

### Let It Rise

Verse

**Let the glory of the Lord rise among us (x2)**

**Let the praises of the King rise among us**

**Let it rise**

**Let the songs of the Lord rise among us (x2)**

**Let the joy of the King rise among us Let it rise**

Chorus

**Oh let it rise Oh let it rise**

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### Our God Reigns

Verse 1

**So much Holy, So divine Yours and so much mine**

**By the morning, light is Thine Per - fect by de - sign**

**Mighty to man, Light of the earth Sending His Son to echo His worth**

**Breaker of sin, winner of souls Every creature will know**

Chorus

**That our God reigns over the heavens Over the earth, Our God reigns  
Praise His name, All still standing All that was, all that remains**

Verse 2

**Our God reigns In de - vo - tion to His bride Stan - ding by her side  
Mighty to man, Light of the earth Sending His Son to echo His worth  
Breaker of sin, winner of souls Every creature will know**

Chorus x2

**Our God reigns All that was, all that remains Our God reigns**

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## WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son **✝** and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

**C Amen.**

**P** With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Merciful God,

**C** you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.  
**We confess that we have strayed from you  
and turned aside from your way.  
We fail in love, neglect justice,  
and ignore your truth.  
Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.  
Create in us clean hearts  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen**

### THE BENEDICTION

**P** May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and **✝** give you peace.

**C Amen.**

### All The People Said Amen

Verse 1

**You are not alone if you are lonely  
When you feel afraid you're not the only  
We are all the same in need of mercy  
To be forgiven and be free  
It's all you got to lean on  
But thank God it's all you need**

Chorus 1

**And all the people said amen whoa  
And all the people said amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said amen**

Verse 2

**If you're rich or poor well it don't matter  
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after  
We're all broken but we're all in this together  
God knows we stumble and fall  
And He so loved the world  
He sent His son to save us all**

(BRIDGE)

**Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart  
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart  
Blessed are the people hungry for another start  
For theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God**

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## THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Supper. Please fill out a registration card and hand it to the usher.*

*We will gladly commune anyone in their seat if they are unable to come forward for communion.*

*Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.*

### Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see**

Verse 2

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed**

Chorus

**My chains are gone I've been set free My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love amazing grace**

Verse 3

**The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures**

Chorus x 2

Verse 4

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine You are forever mine**

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## THE BLESSING

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☞ **Amen.**

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ O Morning Star, fair and bright,

☞ **You have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.  
Go with us now— today, tomorrow, every day— bless us to tell the story of your**

☞ Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God has heard your prayers and forgives you all of your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

## Rescuer

### Chorus

He's our Rescuer, hey

He's our Rescuer, hey

We are free from sin forevermore

Oh, how sweet the sound, hey

Oh, how grace abounds, hey

We will praise the Lord, our Rescuer

### Verse 1

There is good news for the captive

Good news for the shamed

There is good news for the one who walked away

There is good news for the doubter

The one religion failed

For the good Lord has come to seek and save

**REPEAT CHORUS**

### Verse 2

He is beauty for the blind man

Riches for the poor

He is friendship for the one the world ignores

He is pasture for the weary

Rest for those who strive

Oh, the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

Yes, the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

**REPEAT CHORUS**

### Bridge

So come and be chainless

Come and be fearless

Come to the foot of Calvary

There is redemption

For every affliction  
Here at the foot of Calvary

### Chorus 2

He's our Rescuer, hey  
He's our Rescuer, hey  
We are free from sin forevermore  
Oh, how sweet the sound, hey  
Oh, how grace abounds, hey  
We will praise the Lord, our Rescuer  
We will praise the Lord, our Rescuer

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### THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**G** **And also with you.**

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**G** **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and

**lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**G** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**G** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**G** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we give our praise to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**G** **Amen.**

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:  
**G** **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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

**WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

**THANKOFFERING**

*Good stewards know that everything we have is worth sacrificing for the Kingdom of God.*

*Thank you living out your stewardship by giving for the sake of God’s Kingdom lived out in and through the ministry and mission of East Side Lutheran. If you wish, you can scan this with your QR reader on your smart phone to give online to East Side*



**OFFERTORY SONG**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**“Give It All Away”**

All of my plans all of my dreams, I lay them down before Your feet  
 All of my time all that was mine, I now submit to Your design **(REPEAT)**  
 'Cause You are the One Who can make my life complete  
 You are the One Who can give light to my feet  
 You are the One and only One Who dared to give it all away for me  
 You dared to give it all away for me

**THE OFFERING PRAYER**

☞ Merciful God,  
 ☞ receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our

live.”<sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

☞ This is the Word of the Lord. ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
 for God’s mercy endures forever.  
<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
 that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,  
<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
 from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.  
<sup>17</sup>Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
 through their sins they were afflicted.  
<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
 and drew near to death’s door.  
<sup>19</sup>Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
 and you delivered them from their distress.  
<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
 and rescued them from the grave.  
<sup>21</sup>Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
 and your wonderful works for all people.  
<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
 and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own

doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life

☒ This is the Word of the Lord.      ☒ Thanks be to God.

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Lead me to the cross, where your love poured out;  
Bring me to my knees, Lord I lay me down;  
Rid me of myself, I belong to you;  
Oh lead me to the cross**

### GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

### SERMON

*Pastor Marlin Wangsness*

### You Never Let Go

Verse 1

**Even though I walk Through the valley of the shadow of death  
Your perfect love is casting out fear  
And even when I'm caught In the middle of the storms of this life  
I won't turn back I know You are near**

(PRE-CHORUS)

**And I will fear no evil For my God is with me  
And if my God is with me Whom then shall I fear Whom then shall I fear**

Chorus 1

**Oh no You never let go Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go Lord You never let go of me**

Verse 2

**And I can see a light that is coming For the heart that holds on  
A glorious light beyond all compare And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes We'll live to know You here on the earth**

(PRE-CHORUS)

**And I will fear no evil For my God is with me  
And if my God is with me Whom then shall I fear Whom then shall I fear**

Chorus 1

**Oh no You never let go Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go Lord You never let go of me**

(BRIDGE)

**Yes I can see a light That is coming for the heart that holds on  
And there will be an end to these troubles But until that day comes  
Still I will praise You Still I will praise You**

Chorus x2

**Oh no You never let go Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go Lord You never let go of me**

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### THE APOSTLES' CREED

☒ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☒ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,**