

AS WE GATHER

As we read the red letters of Jesus in the Bible, one of the important things He teaches about is forgiveness. Jesus freely forgives us through the blood that he shed on the cross. If we desire to be more like Jesus, we should forgive as we have been forgiven. It's time for you to hear the words of Jesus again – those red letters of the Bible – and then ACT! We see. We touch. We believe. We confess. Join us as we take the **RED LETTER CHALLENGE!** Seek to hear Jesus' words and then act on them as part of a 40-day challenge this Easter season.

Gathering Song *God Gives Us Those Who Love Us*

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song **Lift High the Cross LSB 837 vv1,2,4**

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,
4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic-tor-ious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con-quer-ing ranks com-bine.
As Thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to Thee.

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Call To Worship

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Let us worship the eternal God, who creates.

People: The source of our BEING, of our love, of our life.

Pastor: Let us worship Jesus Christ, who saves.

People: The risen one, who nailed our sin to the cross, FORGIVING us.

Pastor: Let us worship the Spirit, who shapes faith.

People: The holy fire, who renews our SERVING, GIVING, and GOING.

Pastor: To the one true God be praise

People: in all times and all places! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: As far as the east is from the west,
People: so far has God removed our sin from us.

Pastor: With humble hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Faithful Father, have mercy on us. We have failed to obey Your commands.

**Loving Savior, have mercy on us. Wash us clean in Your saving blood.
Comforting Spirit, have mercy on us. Restore us to be Your own. Amen.**

Pastor: Your God is a **FORGIVING** God! The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. God's grace assures you that everything has been taken care of. There is no sin too big that God did not die for on the cross. The empty tomb of Easter Sunday proves this payment was accepted by our Heavenly Father. In Christ, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, as we celebrate the triumph of our risen Savior

People: help us join with all other witnesses of the resurrection in boldly sharing that Jesus is Lord and God!

Pastor: This we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Reader

Kathy Allen

Gospel Reading

John 8: 1-11

(Those without sin cast the first stone)

¹but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "**Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.**" ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "**Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?**" ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "**Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.**"

Reader: The words of Jesus. **RED LETTERS** that form our **BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, and GOING.**

People: Help me Jesus, to faithfully hear your words and put them into practice. Amen.

Children's Message

Song of the Day Brothers and Sisters In Christ

¹ Sing Alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and your praises ascend.

Lift up your voices and sing To our Lord God, Our Savior and King!

Here brought together by grace, We are gathered as friends in this place.

Chorus: And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,
And proclaiming the Lord, All our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

³ Lord, teach us how to proclaim All Your goodness, Your love and Your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive, And in love, teach us Lord, how to live.

Raising our voices in song, Help us tell all the world we belong. *(Chorus)*

Sermon

The Red Letter Challenge: The Week of FORGIVING

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Affirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us: our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey. We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love and we give thanks -- for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us. We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who had been a victim of abuse, every mother who lost a child, every woman who yearns to be a mother and cannot, every woman who stands in protest against a world that kills her unborn children. We lift to you the prayer of every mother, and every woman who has ever loved and lost. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, You are exalted over all things in heaven and on earth. In Your mercy, You shower us with blessings of both body and soul as You care for Your creation. Enable us to see Your hands at work that, together with all those who share in the power of Your Son’s resurrection, we always say of You:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: Giver of life, You renew our souls through the power of Your Holy Spirit. As we continue to celebrate the joy of our Savior’s Easter victory, help Your Church on earth always speak Your Word with boldness and confidence like the first eyewitnesses of Christ’s resurrection.

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: You govern all nations with Your mighty and merciful hand, O Lord. Show Your favor to the country in which we live, raising up men and women who will serve as godly leaders among us; blessing those who make, administer, and judge our laws; protecting all those who serve in harm’s way for the benefit of others; and helping us always to know and believe:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: In Your Son’s earthly ministry, people brought to Him all those who were sick and suffering that He might touch and heal them. This ministry of healing continued through His disciples in the earliest church. Even now, we know that Jesus heals, renews, and restores through the Baptism

and Holy Supper He has provided for our benefit. Place Your healing hand upon those in need. In the shadow of Your healing presence, we boldly confess:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: Prepare the hearts of all those who will receive You at Your Table this day, O Lord. Help us to cast aside all bitterness and pride, laying our burdens down at the foot of Christ's cross. Because He lives in triumph over death and the grave, we experience His life-giving presence as we are gathered in His name to remember His sacrifice. Grant that all who share in His body and blood look upon Him, trust in Him, and always say of Him:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

Offering **Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

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 the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

What Wondrous Love Is This

Chief of Sinners Thou I Be LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Sending Song For All the Faithful Women LSB 855 vv1,3,4



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en Who served in days of old,
3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un - known
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.
In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,
All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!



They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.
We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise
With saints who went be - fore us, With saints who wit - ness still,



To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.
That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.
We sing glad Al - le - lu - ias And strive to do Your will.

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Pastor: May God's Word shape your **BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, and GOING!**

People: **Amen.**