



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

*Sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world—
compassionate, generous, resilient, and wise*



March 23, 2025

Welcome!

*Jesus Christ and our faith community
welcome you to worship today.*

Today's Service

3rd Sunday in Lent

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate these important events. The season invites us to make our hearts and minds ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Isaiah 55:1-9 and Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

Prayer for today

O Lord, you who daily bear our burdens, strengthen our hands and expand our heart's capacity to bear one another's burdens, we pray, so that we might offer your generous care to friend and neighbor alike who may feel crushed under the trials and troubles of their lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One whose burden is light. Amen.

David Taylor

Visiting First Pres?

If you would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the visitors card in your pews. An usher will collect them during the offering.

The Nursery (available for children up to 3 years) opens at 9:00 am in Room 212.

Join us for Coffee Hour following worship in the Great Room.

The Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today is:

Scottie Ann Tiedmann, child of Richelle (McCoy) and John Tiedmann.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Rev. Kristie Finley
Andy Knapp
Dr. Robert McConnell
Dr. Jack Reeder
Sanctuary Choir
Lakeminster Ringers
Rick Day
Gonzalo Zarazaga

Prelude

The River

arr. Anna Laura Page



Our Sanctuary sound system is equipped to broadcast directly to T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. If your hearing aid is so equipped, switch it into this mode. If you do not have this type of hearing aid, assistive listening devices are available from the ushers.



Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge: scan the QR code or go to FirstChurchLF.org/give.

The Welcome

Introit

Idumea

Sacred Harp tune

And am I born to die?
To lay this body down!
And must my trembling spirit fly
Into a world unknown?

A land of deepest shade,
Unpierced by human thought;
The dreary regions of the dead,
Where all things are forgot!

Soon as from earth I go,
What will become of me?
Eternal happiness or woe
Must then my portion be!

Waked by the trumpet sound,
I from my grave shall rise;
And see the Judge with glory crowned,
And see the flaming skies!

— Charles Wesley

*Call to Worship

(Isaiah 55, Psalm 63)

Leader: Hear, everyone who thirsts! Come to the waters!

People: Our souls thirst for you, O Lord, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

People: our lips will praise you.

Leader: May our souls be satisfied as with a rich feast,

People: and under the shadow of your wings, let us sing for joy.

*Hymn of Praise No. 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

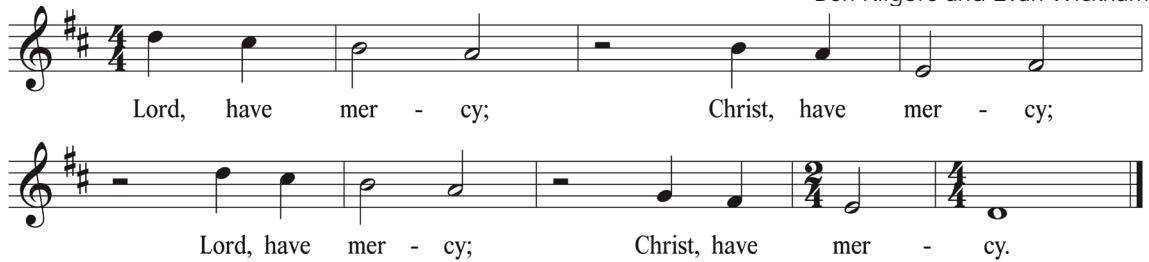
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Merciful God, your steadfast love is better than life, but we daily grieve your heart of love. You have set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You have planted us in rich soils, but we fail to bear fruit. You have called us to forgive, but we are more inclined to nurse our grudges. Forgive us, O Lord, and satisfy us with the streams of your never-ceasing mercy, that we may bear good fruit for your kingdom, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Kyrie

John Arndt, David Gungor, Ian Cron,
Ben Kilgore and Evan Wickham



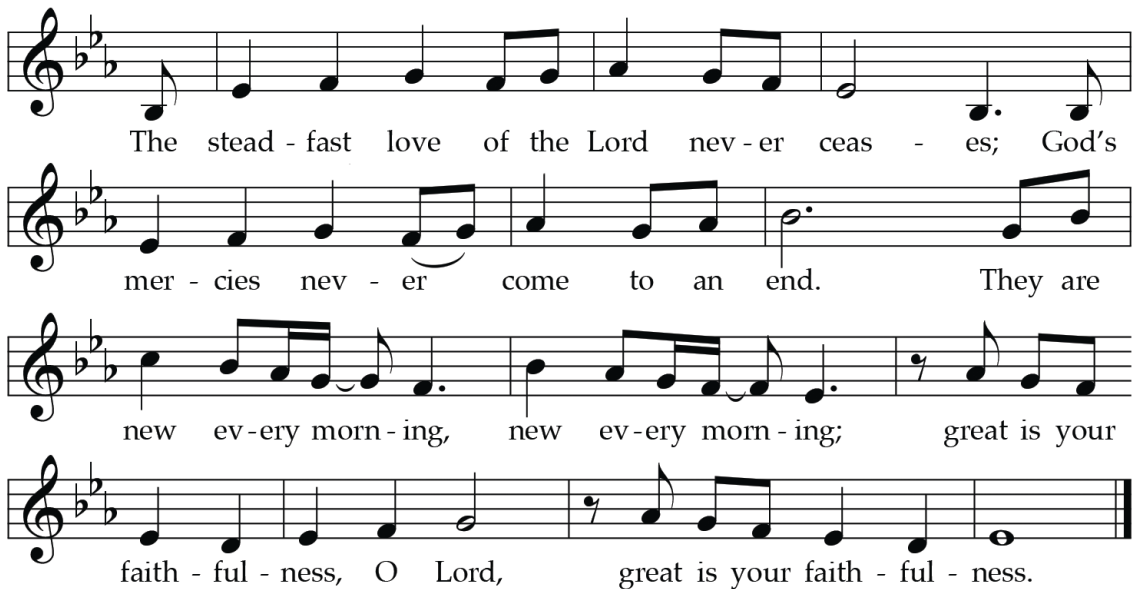
Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Sung Response No. 59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord



The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's

mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are

new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your

faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Baptism

Scottie Ann Tiedmann

Congregational Question

Leader: Friends, do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this child, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Jesus, and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

People: **We do.**

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

*The 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Baptism

The Welcome

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church.
We are all members of the household of God and family through Jesus Christ.

Sung Response No. 188 verse 3

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Following the Baptism, children in preschool through 4th grade will go to their Faith Building class, this week in Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your children following worship.

Anthem

O God, Thou Art My God

Henry Purcell

O God, thou art my God:
early will I seek thee.
My soul thirsteth for thee;
my flesh also longeth after thee
in a barren and dry land where no water is.
Thus have I look'd for thee in holiness
that I might behold thy power and glory.
For thy loving kindness is better than life
itself:

my lips shall praise thee.
As long as I live will I magnify thee on this
manner,
and lift up my hands in thy name.
Because thou hast been my helper,
therefore under the shadow of thy wings will
I rejoice.
Hallelujah.

— Psalm 63:1-5, 8

New Testament Lesson

Luke 13:6-9

New Testament, page 76 in pew Bible

Sermon

Jon Wasson

“The Gardener’s Grace”

*Hymn of Response No. 795

Healer of Our Every Ill

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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 the Offering



You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to firstchurchlf.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory

Lament

Barry Wenger

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Sending No. 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

I want Jesus to Walk with Me

African American Spiritual

In my trials, Lord, walk with me

In my trials, Lord, walk with me

When the shades of life are falling

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me

*Postlude

Voluntary on the 100th Psalm

Henry Purcell

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Joys & Concerns

Joys

The baptism of Scottie Ann Tiedmann this morning.

Concerns

For Rich Levin, Sally McDonald and their sons on the death of Rich's father, Richard Levin who was 89 years old living in Louisville, Kentucky. Continued prayers for the family as they mourn the recent death of Sally's mother, Esteleen McDonald.

For Anne Warnke recovering from surgery.

For Cindy Morehead and her family on the death of her husband, Dick Morehead. A memorial is being planned for May 17.

Prayers for the Country and the World

Your glory and power, O God, surround us. We lift up our hearts and call your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give. We know we can come to you in prayer and so now we lift up the pain of the world, asking for your comfort and peace to enfold us all, to bring healing and hope to those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. When we consider how you have helped us, giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in time of need. We invite you to share your prayer requests by filling out a Joys & Concerns card, emailing us at pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org or call 224.544.1967.

Prayer requests will be removed from this listing after two weeks. Please let us know if prayer continues to be requested.

Prayer Chain For confidential prayers, you may email prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org. Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

Serve, Learn, & Connect

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn

engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe

sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

Join our Music Ministry

Robert McConnell

rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org

Mission & Outreach

Sally McDonald and Laura Johnson

missionoutreach@firstchurchlf.org

Weekly Ministries

For details and schedule visit our website at firstchurchlf.org/ministries

SUNDAYS

Early Word Bible Study

8:30 am, South Parlor

Middle School Youth Group

Most Sundays, 5:00 pm, Youth Lounge

Senior High Youth Group

Most Sundays, 7:00 pm, Youth Lounge

TUESDAYS

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 pm, South Parlor

Adult Bible Study

1:00 pm, Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

10:00 am, South Parlor/Zoom

THURSDAYS

Daybreakers Men's Bible Study

6:30 am, South Parlor/Zoom

FRIDAYS

Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 am, South Parlor/Zoom

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For more information and to sign up, visit firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents

Easter Flowers

As we look forward to Easter, offerings for flowers are welcomed in memory or honor of a loved one, to beautify the sanctuary and remind us of the glory of God's creation and Christ's resurrection. If you are offering Easter flowers in honor or memory of a loved one and would like for their names to be printed in the Easter bulletin, please have your donation and forms in by Tuesday, April 15. firstchurchlf.org/flowers

First Camp 2025

June 9-13, 9:30-11:30 am

First Camp registration is now open on our website. For ages 3-6 years old, this camp runs Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13 from 9:30 - 11:30am. First Camp is run by Rachel Magnusson and parent volunteers, and Rachel is seeking volunteers. Please email her at rmagnusson@firstchurchlf.org.

Sign up for our newsletter!

Scan the QR code or go to firstchurchlf.org to receive news and updates.



APNC Request

Our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) continues to prayerfully and diligently seek an Associate Pastor for Faith Formation. Please reach out to your network to ask if they know of anyone who may be interested in this position. Questions? Please email the APNC at fpclf2024apnc@gmail.com.

Sunday Evening Worship During Lent

Sundays, 5:00 pm, Chapel

Join us for a casual evening worship in the chapel led by Daniel Makins. The service will begin at 5 pm with communion and dinner in the great room to follow. All are welcome!

Maundy Thursday Dinners

Thursday, April 17

This year we invite you to join us in homes across town for a shared meal and communion. Together, we will reflect on Jesus' humility and sacrifice, breaking bread in fellowship as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday. Sign up today at firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents

Rummage Sale Volunteers

This year's 75th Anniversary Rummage Sale is Saturday, May 3rd. The last day donations will be accepted is Monday, April 7th. If you would like to volunteer to work the sale, please email rummage@firstchurchlf.org for the sign-up link or fill out a volunteer card at the front desk.

First Wednesday Lunch

Wednesday, April 2, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Hosted by the Deacons, this special gathering for our older adults will feature great food, conversation, and community. RSVP today at firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents

For the full church calendar, schedule of ministries, and more: www.firstchurchlf.org

Find us on Facebook and Instagram: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf)



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