

Music Today

Cross Road

AS WE GATHER

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman’s identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Lutheran Women in Mission are women of faith, empowered for active service in Jesus’ name and bold support of missions through Mite Box offerings. As Christians, we have been given the kingdom of God to bear its fruit.

Gathering Songs One Thing Remains

Higher than the mountains that I face Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains One thing remains

Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love

On and on and on and on it goes It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever, have to be afraid
One thing remains This one thing remains

Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love

In death, In life, I’m confident and covered by, the power of Your great love
My debt is paid, there’s nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love

Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up it never runs out on me
Your love

Your love is never ending, your love is never ending, your love is never ending Your love
Your love is never ending, your love is never ending, your love is never ending Your love

Romans 8:38-39: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you. **(Repeat)**

To see you high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you. **(Repeat)**

To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You, I want to see You **(Repeat)**

CCLI Song # 2298355 "Open the Eyes of My Heart," words and music by Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

Confession and Forgiveness *Mark 1:15; Psalm 113:1–3*

Pastor: Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

People: Yet we often do not live as You have called us to live as Your own. We do not always honor Your name nor Your calling with our praise.

Pastor: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You as we follow in faith.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

People: we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as ourselves, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. We have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone.

Pastor: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel. Hear and rejoice in the Good News. Jesus Christ died for you, and for His sake, God has compassion. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, as the call to follow You comes to us through Your Word, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we trust and serve You in repentance and faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Reader

Judy Baggenstoss

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:22–27

(I Will Put My Spirit Within You)

²²"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new

heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:18–22

(Called to Be Holy)

¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28–31

(The Great Commandment)

²⁸And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message / Kid's Church

Song of the Day Heart of Worship

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus: I'll bring You more than a song
 For a song in itself
 Is not what You have required
 You search much deeper within
 Through the way things appear
 You're looking into my heart

Chorus: I'm coming back
 To the heart of worship
 And it's all about You

All about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord
For the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
All about You Jesus

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath **(Pre-Chorus & Chorus)**

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Sermon "Love One Another from Pure Hearts" 1 Peter 1:22 *Pastor Aaron Boerst*

LWML PLEDGE (Women only)

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Creed – APOSTLE'S 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: Lord, as You have called us as Your own, gathered us together, and enlightened us by Your Spirit through Your Word, we bring to You our prayer and praise. Almighty God, You search our hearts and have seen our sin, and yet in Your love have reconciled us to Yourself through Your Son. Give us Your Spirit, the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, that our lives may grow in devotion to You for the salvation You have so graciously given us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Guide, our congregation in life and witness. Give us Your grace, so that in a land where strife is too common, we will be a place of peace. In our divided nation, make this Your congregation a gathering place of hearts united in You who extend Your welcome to all. Inspire all the members of Your congregation to love this place where Your name is invoked and Your grace proclaimed. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: For the mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. Through the faithful gathering of mites, may Lutheran Women in Mission continue to encourage us to put all You have given us into the mission of reaching the lost and erring. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: For the daily bread that sustains us in life: For food and health, for housing and clothing, for employment, for moderate weather, for justice and peace in our community and nation, that in every time of abundance and time of need, we may know Your peace in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: For communicants who come to Your table to eat and drink Your Son's holy body and blood: May they draw near with humble confidence in Your forgiveness and reliance upon Your promise of nurture as we faithfully walk the heavenward way. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

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

Local concerns may be 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 the Peace

Offering In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved

With a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him –
Give my heart.

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

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide

Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling **(Chorus)**

Oh what a Savior isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before Him for He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is Risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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Amazing Love

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted You were condemned
I'm alive and well Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me?
Amazing love I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted You were condemned
I'm alive and well Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me?
Amazing love I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

You are my King You are my King
Jesus You are my King Jesus You are my King

Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me?
Amazing love I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

Amazing love how can it be

That You my King would die for me?
Amazing love I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You
In all I do Let me honor you

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By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And I pray that our unity may one day be restored

Chorus And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land **(Chorus)**

Bridge They'll know us by our love
Our love Our love Our love
They'll know us by our love
Our love Our love Our love

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each other's dignity and save each other's pride **(Chorus)**

Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

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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.

Announcements

Sending Song I Am

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you".

There's no space that His love can't reach
There's no place that we can't find peace
There's no end to Amazing Grace
Take me in with your arms spread wide
Take me in like an orphan child
Never let go, never leave my side.

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on, I am!

Love like this, Oh my God to find!
I am overwhelmed what a joy divine!
Love like this sets our hearts on fire!

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on, I am!

This is my Resurrection Song
This is my Hallelujah Come
This is why it's to You I run

This is my Resurrection Song
This is my Hallelujah Come
This is why to You I run

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on, I am!

In the middle of the storm,
I am Holding on, I am!

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