

**AS WE GATHER**

We live in a world of doers. But in Matthew 11 and 12, we are called not to “do”, but to “be.” Being intimately connected to Jesus and abiding in his rest is truly life-changing. As we abide in him, we begin to look and live more like Jesus. 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**                      *Beautiful One*

**Welcome & Invocation**

*Pastor Aaron Boerst*

**Opening Song**      **In the Cross of Christ I Glory LSB427**



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no

sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67 Text and tune: Public domain

**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.**

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 11: 28-30; 12:8*

*(Jesus is Lord of Sabbath Rest)*

<sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

<sup>8</sup>For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."


Pastor: 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.**

**Song of the Day I Love to Tell the Story**




1 I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 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.  
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;  
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.  
'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.



Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835–1912 Tune: Public domain

**Sermon                      The Red Letter Challenge: The Week of BEING**

*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:** 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 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing LSB 691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932 Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. 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**

**Eat This Bread**

**At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing LSB 633**



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
 You have conquered in the fight,  
 You have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 Now no more the grave enthrall;  
 You have opened paradise,  
 And Your saints in You shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
 Newborn souls in You to be.  
 Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, Your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivanceice 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 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867 Text and tune: Public domain

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

People: Amen.