

THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR WHO CONQUERS EVIL

March 12, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the “Conqueror renowned” (*LSB* 554:1) who “triumphed over cross and grave” (*LSB* 551:4). His coming to earth to bring about a matchless victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is eternal and limitless!

HYMN #437

"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 8

- P** O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens.
- C** **Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**
- P** When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
- C** **what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?**
- P** Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
- C** **You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**
- P** all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
- C** **the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**
- O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
Gracious Father, for the joy set before Him, Your Son, Jesus, endured the suffering of the cross. In our suffering, O Lord, strengthen our faith that we may know Your companionship in our darkest hours; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

- P** Although the deep and grand texts of many of the hymns of the Lenten season have been used in the church for centuries, there are also new texts in other sections of the hymnal that highlight certain features of the Passion of our Lord in this holy season. One of those hymn texts is “The Tree of Life,” written in the 1990s by Pastor Stephen Starke. It contrasts the tree in the Garden of Eden—having fruit eaten in disobedience to God’s command by Eve and Adam—with the tree of the cross of Calvary, where Jesus overcame the power of Satan by His sacrificial death to pay the price of the sins of mankind. Both trees have power, and each has beauty as well. Both are central to the message of the Gospel.
- L** One can expand their Lenten devotional life by meditating on hymn texts. “The tree of life with every good” is the type of text that invites prayerful reflection as it musically expresses the words of the Proper Preface for Holy Week that proclaim Jesus’ great victory over Satan: “that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome.”

HYMN #561

"The Tree of Life"



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
 eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Bruce W. Becker, 1952

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FIRST READING

Genesis 3:14–15

The LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PRAYER RESPONSE

L Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You became man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in glory. You endured Satan’s attacks for us that You could crush the serpent’s head for us. By Your humble incarnation, Your life of purity and selfless service, and Your sacrificial death, You have redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:11–15

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Romans 10:17

C Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20–33

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN #657 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

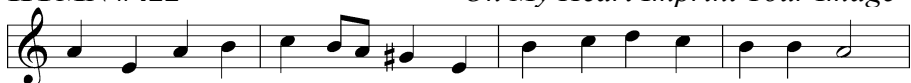
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SERMON "The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil"

Genesis 3:14-15

HYMN #422

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke – Part 1

Narrator: Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put Him to death,

People: **for they feared the people.**

Narrator: Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.

People: **So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of a crowd.**

Narrator: Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,

Jesus: Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.

Narrator: They said to Him,

People: **Where will you have us prepare it?**

Narrator: He said to them,

Jesus: Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, “The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?” And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.

Narrator: And they went and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them,

Jesus: I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said,

Jesus: Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Narrator: And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Narrator: And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,

Jesus: This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!

People: And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Narrator: A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And He said to them,

Jesus: The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. You are those who have stayed with Me in My trials, and I assign to you, as My Father assigned to Me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

OFFERING

RESPONSIVE LITANY

P Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Let our cry come to You.

P Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the promised offspring, Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

- C** By His redeeming death, He has crushed the serpent's head for us.
- P** Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death,
- C** help us to find healing in His wounds
- P** and grant us eyes of faith
- C** to see that His cross is, for us, the tree of life.
- P** Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus
- C** and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
- P** until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in paradise
- C** and experience the fullness of Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P** Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

- P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.
- C** Amen.

HYMN #543

"What Wonderous Love Is This"



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Soup & Sandwich Supper will be held each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. Thank you to ACT for serving this week. 6th grade is serving the soup supper next Wednesday.

Pick up a Lenten Devotion book in the narthex.

The Library Used Book Sale is going on during Lent. Books are available for a freewill donation.

ACT Envelope Fundraiser is taking place now. Take an envelope and support our youth.

Take out your passion wood cutting and/or Lenten cross and objects, if you have them, as part of your daily Lenten meditation. Or find other ways to decorate your house for Lent.

Consider doing a Lenten fast. There are two types of fasts. One is to give up something for the 40 days of lent until Easter. (Certain foods like dessert, candy, pop or meat or certain time wasters like TV or web browsing would be examples.) The other kind of fast is to commit to doing something extra in response to what Jesus did for you. (Doing a good deed each day or each week or spending more time in God's Word and prayer would be examples.)

Singles Share and Care Day will be Friday, March 21 at 1:30 PM. There will be a devotion, time for sharing and visiting, a short activity and refreshments. Anyone wanting to bring a snack item is welcome to do so. All singles are welcome.

Funeral Service for Darrel Eggert will be tomorrow, March 13 at 3 PM, here at Immanuel, with visitation beginning at 1 PM.

Funeral Service for Paul Peterson will be Thursday, March 20 at 11 AM, here at Immanuel, with visitation at 10 AM.