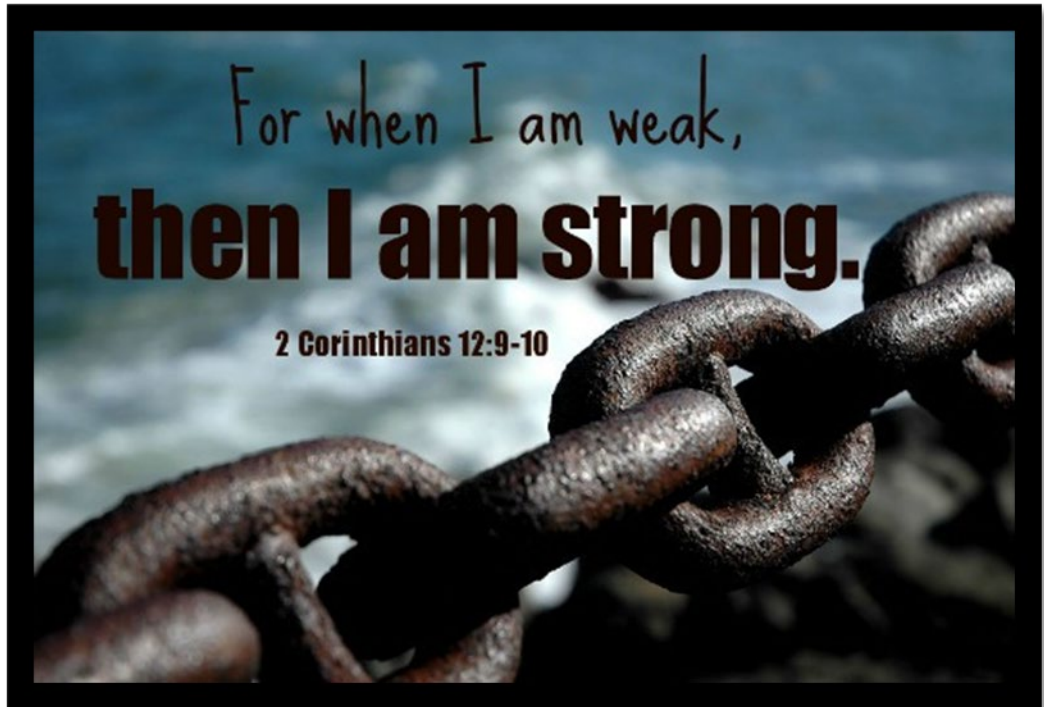


# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

## March 14, 2021



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church**  
*(Wisconsin Synod)*  
1332 Arrowhead Rd.  
Grafton, Wisconsin 53024  
Church: 262-377-6363 School: 262-377-7780

# CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

**WELCOME!!!** Welcome to Our Savior Lutheran Church! This is our Contemporary Worship Service, designed to communicate the eternal message of God's love in today's language and style. We offer this service to demonstrate that, while we each may have a preference for a particular sound or way of saying things, the message of God in Christ remains the same. He is the Way, Truth, and Life. In him we experience the "Fullness" of Life.

So we invite our guests to investigate the power of God's Word. We pray that as you walk closer to the Savior (Our Savior) you will be uplifted and strengthened for the challenges that lie ahead of you this week. We invite you to join us again. Bring your friends with you too!

**Guests:** Welcome to all who are visiting with us today!

**Membership:** If you are interested in membership here at Our Savior or would like more information about our church and school, or have questions about what we believe, contact Pastor Wagner at 262-377-6363. He offers a series of classes that give an introduction to the Bible and an explanation of our teachings based on that Word of God. As a spiritual advisor, Pastor Wagner also offers free, confidential counseling and is willing to serve you as best he can.

**Christian Education:** Our Savior offers a wide variety of educational opportunities for the entire family. Each Sunday adults and children study the Scriptures in our Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. We have a Christian Elementary School that provides an excellent education from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Contact our Principal, Jon Hahm, for more information (262-377-7780) or check out the school website at [www.OurSaviorGrafton.org](http://www.OurSaviorGrafton.org).



My strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

**WORSHIP NOTES:** David holds a role in Hebrew history as the mighty warrior, the one who challenged a giant and won. Yet in Psalm 38 he speaks from a position of weakness, a man who sounds afflicted and vulnerable. As such, he gives voice to our own fear – of being helpless. Today we encounter the stark reality of Lent, the onslaught of God's arrows in the Law, wounding us. But we also see someone whose confession doesn't just stop at his sin, but moves on to his Savior. David reminds us that we can cry out to God for help and he hears us.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

**WELCOME** *by Pastor*

**WE SING**

**“I Need Thee Every Hour”**

I need thee ev’ry hour, Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like thine Can peace afford.

I need thee, oh, I need thee; Ev’ry hour I need thee!  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior; I come to thee.

I need thee ev’ry hour, Stay thou near by.  
Temptations lose their pow’r When thou art nigh.

I need thee, oh, I need thee; Ev’ry hour I need thee!  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior; I come to thee.

I need thee ev’ry hour, In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain.

I need thee, oh, I need thee; Ev’ry hour I need thee!  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior; I come to thee.

I need thee ev’ry hour; Teach me thy will,  
And thy rich promises in me fulfill.

I need thee, oh, I need thee; Ev’ry hour I need thee!  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior; I come to thee.

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP** (from Psalm 42)

**P:** As the deer pants for streams of water...

**C:** **...so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me, “where is your God?”**

**P:** I remember how I used to go, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

**ALL:** **Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.**

### **WE CONFESS OUR SINS**

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy on us. In this hour, help us see our sin and desire a fresh start with you. Help us see the shortcomings in our lives and look to you for answers to our problems. Give us a new vision of what life can be like. Teach us to hope, to love, to give, and to have faith, and to be faithful to you, all through Jesus. Lord have mercy on us.

### **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS**

**P:** Our God has heard the cries of his people and has had mercy on us. He has seen our need and provided for our salvation. He has seen our condition and provided the solution. He has seen our hearts and given us a Savior. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sin is no longer a weight that holds us down. We are free to live in victory, free from the sin of our self-deceit and free from Satan's power. Praise God for his goodness.

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **“Rock of my Salvation”**

You are the rock of my salvation.  
You are the strength of my life.  
You are my hope and my inspiration.  
Lord, unto you will I cry.  
I believe in you, believe in you.  
For your faithful love to me.  
You have been my help in time of need.  
Lord unto you will I cleave. Repeat.

#### *Musical interlude*

I believe in you, believe in you.  
For your faithful love to me.  
You have been my help in time of need.  
Lord unto you will I cleave.  
Lord unto you will I cleave.

**WE HEAR THE WORD FROM THE EPISTLE LESSON****EPHESIANS 2:4-10**

*Get this straight – grace – faith – works! Salvation is alone by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ. That faith responds with a life of loving obedience. What God has done, not what we do, has accomplished our salvation. And we have been saved to serve.*

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**WE SING****“Standing on the Promise”**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises  
of God my Savior Standing, standing  
I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that can not fail  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises  
of God my Savior Standing, standing  
I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord.  
Bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises  
of God my Savior Standing, standing  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I can not fall,  
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises  
of God my Savior Standing, standing  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

### **WE HEAR THE WORD FROM THE GOSPEL JOHN 3:14-21**

*Jesus foretold his crucifixion, using the bronze snake of today's Old Testament lesson prophetically. Faith in his death for our sin assures salvation. Rejecting Jesus and his sacrificial death earns eternal condemnation. The way people live reflects what they believe.*

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

### **WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH (from Romans 8)**

**ALL: We have received the spirit of sonship, and by him we cry: "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. . . in order that we may also share in his glory. . . the Spirit himself intercedes for us.**

**If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all --how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Christ Jesus, who died -- more than that, who was raised to life -- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For we are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**WE SING**

**“Thy Word is a Lamp”**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path (*repeat*)

When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way.  
Still you’re there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path (*repeat*)

I will not forget Your love for me and yet,  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side.  
And I will love you to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path. (*repeat*)

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path. (*repeat*)

**WE MEDITATE**

**PSALM 38 (SELECTED)**

**“HOW THE WEAKNESS OF FAITH BECOMES OUR STRENGTH”**

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

*Online or in the entry to the gym. Guests please do not feel any obligation to participate in the offering (though you are always welcome to do so). Find and fill out a Guest Card as you leave, and drop it in with the offerings so we can connect with you – thanks!*

## **WE PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen**

## **WE JOIN IN PRAYER** *(adapted into prayer from 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5)*

**ALL: Lord, we ask that the message of your grace may spread rapidly and be honored. You, O Lord, are faithful. You strengthen and protect us from the evil one. Please direct our hearts into your divine love and Christ's perseverance.**

## **WE HEAR HIS PROMISE OF PROTECTION**

- P:** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
- C: We cast all our anxiety on him because he cares for us.**

## **WE RECEIVE HIS BLESSING**

- P:** And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ... will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever.
- C: Amen.**



## WE CLOSE WITH SONG

### **“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”**

Jesus I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee.  
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shalt be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition,  
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me.  
They have left my savior too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me,  
Thou art not like them untrue.  
Oh while thou dost smile upon me,  
God of wisdom love and might  
Foes may hate and friends disown me,  
Show thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,  
Twill but drive me to thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me,  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, tis not in grief to harm me.  
While thy love is left to me  
Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with thee.

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## SILENT PRAYERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mid-Week Thursday Services  
At 7:00 pm

Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church

03-18-21	<b>MidWeek #5</b>	Hands of Brutality (Soldiers)	<b>Mark Wagner</b> Matthew 27:27-31
03-25-21	<b>MidWeek #6</b>	Hands of Self-Preservation (Pilate)	<b>Mike Hintz</b> Matthew 27:15-26
03-28-21	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Hands of Praise (Disciples & Crowds)	<b>Mark Wagner</b> Mark 11:1-11

## Holy Week & Easter

March 28	<b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:00 & 10:30am*	Hands of Praise (Disciples & Crowds)
April 1	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 3:30 & 7:00pm*	Hands of Humility (Jesus)
April 2	<b>Good Friday</b> 1:00pm*	Love: A Matter of Death and Life
April 2	<b>Good Friday</b> 7:00pm*	Hands Pierced by Nails (Jesus)
April 4	<b>Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 & 9:30am*	Hands Giving Us Life (Jesus)

*\* These services will also be Livestreamed on our YouTube channel.*

**Intro:** In this Psalm we hear the voice of one who recognizes the enormity of sin under God's condemnation. Intense, rapid-paced language reveals the potency of the law. Like arrows, God's indictments wound us; like salve God's mercies heal us.

## **How the Weakness of Faith becomes Our Strength**

### **1. Pursued: I feel like you're shooting at me. (38:1-8)**

- 1.1 Previously I relied on my agility and ability to survive.
- 1.2 Now I find myself pinned down and disadvantaged.
- 1.3 God is still working on me.

**App:** Sometimes we hide our weaknesses, from God and from ourselves. Times of illness can actually help us to open up, admit our sin and seek our Savior.

### **2. Oppressed: My friends are avoiding me. (38:9-16)**

- 2.1 When our dreams start to slip through our fingers, we feel vulnerable.
- 2.2 Some day we may also feel discarded and worthless.

**App:** Feeling helpless can in fact help us. It trims our pride and returns us to a dependency on another, the one who will never forsake us.

### **3. Pleading: I need your help, dear Savior. (38:17-22)**

- 3.1 God is compassionate. He hears us cry out to him.
- 3.2 Trembling, we reach out in faith.

**App:** Our confession and awareness of weakness leads to a new strength, unattainable unless we ask and receive the Spirit's gift.

**Conclusion:** God did not ignore David's confession – his confession of sinfulness; his confession of faith. Let our Lenten confession be just as strong in faith.

## THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Sunday (3/14)	<b>8:00 AM</b> 9:15 AM <b>10:30 AM</b> 11:45 AM	<b>Contemporary Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class <b>Contemporary Worship Service</b> Call Meeting
Wednesday	<b>8:30 AM</b> 4:00 PM 6:00 PM	<b>Children's Church</b> Public School Confirmation Class Bible Information Class
Thursday	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lenten Service w/communion</b>
Friday	7:00 PM	Trivia Night
Sunday (3/21)	<b>8:00 AM</b> 9:15 AM 9:15 AM <b>10:30 AM</b> 11:45 AM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion</b> Adult Bible Class Sunday School <b>Worship Service w/Communion</b> Confirmation Parent Meeting

### Next Week's Readings

First Lesson	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Second Lesson	Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel	John 12:20-33
Psalm	Psalm 143

*LiveStream on Youtube Channel at 10:30am every Sunday  
This service is also recorded for review after livestream.  
Link on our website (see below).*

## THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

**PASTOR:**

Mark C. Wagner

**INSTRUMENTALISTS:**

Piano: Ann Petermann  
Guitar: Katie Koffman  
Drums: George Edwards

**VOCALISTS:**

Rod Bollinger  
Deanna Edwards  
Katie Koffman

**SONGS:**

As Printed

**FIRST LESSON:**

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

**GOSPEL LESSON:**

JOHN 3:14-21

**THE SERMON:**

PSALM 38 (SELECTED)

"HOW THE WEAKNESS  
OF FAITH BECOMES  
OUR STRENGTH"

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### OUR SAVIOR EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Church: 262-377-6363

School: 262-377-7780

**Mark C. Wagner**

Pastor  
oslc@wi.rr.com

**Thomas P. Hering**

Staff Minister  
oslscsm@wi.rr.com

**Jonathan J. Hahm**

Principal  
osls@wi.rr.com