



# Faith Lutheran Church

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ*



**The Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 11, 2018**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

**C: Amen.**

P: *(A brief silence.)* Merciful God,

C: **you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**P:** Behold now is the acceptable time;  
now is the day of salvation. Almighty  
God have mercy on us, forgive us all  
our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

# **OPENING HYMN “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

**My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!**

**Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

**P:** The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live.

When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)* O God,  
**C:** **rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14 NIV

# Children's Church

## **FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

R: A reading from Numbers, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

From Mount Hor, the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?”

For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **A Responsive Reading From Psalm 107**

**R:** Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

**C:** **Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

R: gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**C: Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

R: They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

**C: Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

R: You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

**C: Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for  
your steadfast love and your wonderful  
works for all people.**

**R:** Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**C: Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

R: A reading from Ephesians, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

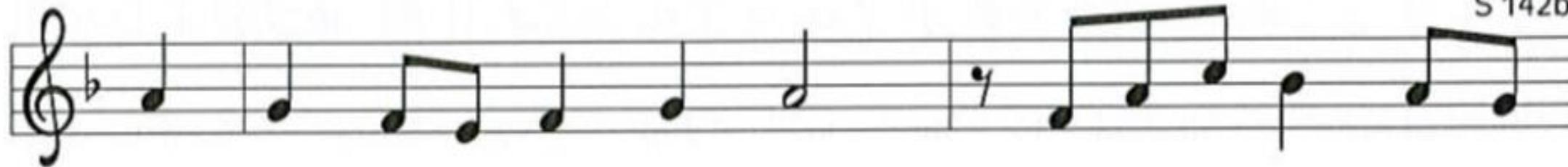
You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

**P:** The holy gospel according to John,  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C: *Glory to you, O Lord.***

Jesus said: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

# **SERMON**

**“Cross-Gazing at Grace”**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”**

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

# **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**P:** Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)* We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God,  
we lift our prayers to you, through your  
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

# **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

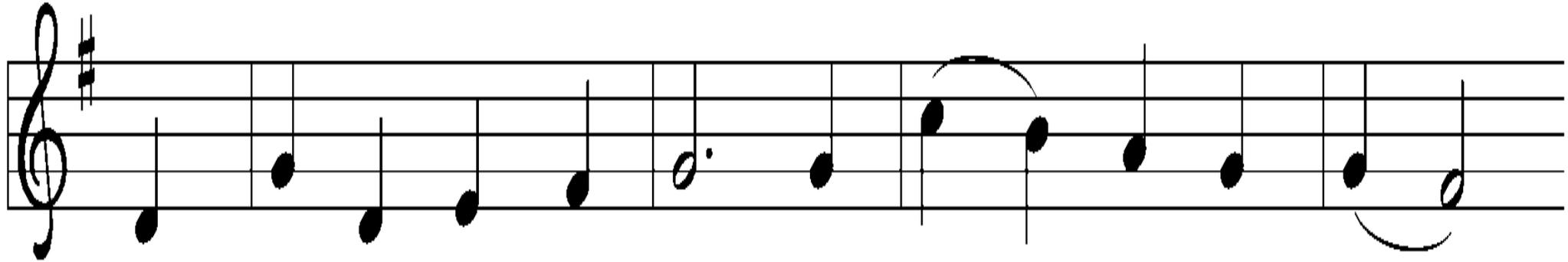
**C:** **And also with you.**

***OFFERING***

**~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~**

***“The Lord’s Prayer”***

## Offertory Response



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the  
Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks  
and praise.**

# **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

# **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.**

*COMMUNION*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

# **BLESSING**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, † Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you now  
and forever.

**C:** Amen.

# **CLOSING HYMN “Lift High the Cross”**

## ***Refrain***

***Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**Come, Christians,  
follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ,  
the Son of God.**

***Refrain***

***Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.**

***Refrain***

***Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.**

***Refrain***

***Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory!**

***Refrain***

***Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

# **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**













