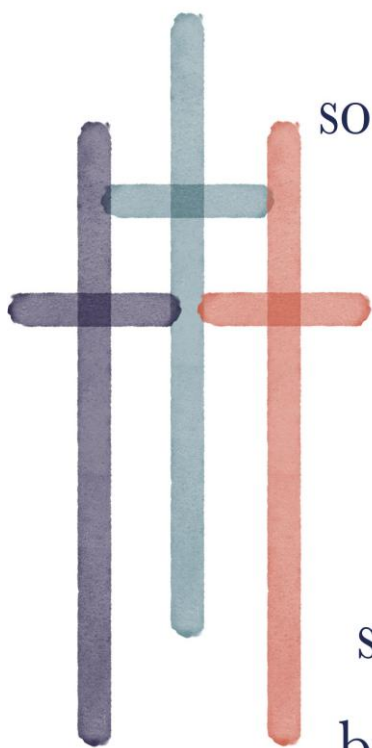


March 14, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent



For *God*
so loved the world,
that he gave
his only son,
that whoever
believes in *him*
should not perish
but have *eternal life*.

John 3:16

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

The Fourth Sunday in Lent has sometimes been considered an oasis in the midst of Lent. With John 3:16 at the center of today's Gospel, we find a refreshing oasis as we hear again those beautiful, life-changing, hope-filled words, "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." When snake bitten in the wilderness because of their own sin, the Israelites looked up to the bronze serpent given by God, and they lived. When we are snake bitten—troubled by some persistent sin or burdened by some unforeseen event that threatens to overwhelm us—we can remember that God has given us His Son, lifted up on the cross, to look upon, to trust, and thereby to live now and eternally. Made alive in Christ, "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). A refreshing oasis indeed!

PRESERVICE MUSIC (Handbells) *"Meditations on the Cross"* Michael Helman

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Handbells) *"The Lamb"* Coleman / Behnke

WELCOME

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Following the course of this world,

People: **we were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked.**

Pastor: But God, being rich in mercy, made us alive together with Christ—

People: **by grace we have been saved.**

Pastor: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

People: **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

OPENING PRAISE SONG

“At the Cross”

[Morgan / Zschech © 2006 Hillsong Publishing (Admin. by Integrity's Hosanna! Music). All rights reserved. CCLI # 254312]

Oh Lord, You've searched me.
You know my way.
Even when I fail You.
I know You love me.

Your holy presence, surrounding me.
In ev'ry season,
I know You love me.
I know You love me.

CHORUS:

**At the cross I bow my knee,
Where Your blood was shed for me.
There's no greater love than this.
You have overcome the grave,
Your glory fills the highest place.
What can separate me now.**

You go before me,
You shield my way.
Your hand upholds me.
I know You love me.

(Chorus)

You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done.
You tore the veil, You made a way.
When You said that it is done.

And when the earth fades, falls from my eyes.
And You stand before me,
I know You love me.
I know You love me.

(Chorus)

SINS CONFESSED

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God our Father.

People: **We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do.**

People: **Forgive us our cold unbelief. And make clear to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross. Show us what it cost you to give up your Son so that we might become your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

Pastor: By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Numbers 21:4–9*

(Israelites who look up to the bronze serpent live.)

They traveled from Mount Horeb along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

EPISTLE: *Ephesians 2:1–10* *(We are saved by grace.)*

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 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.

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 3:14–21* (*All who look up to Jesus on the cross will be saved.*)

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

SONG

“Amazing Grace”

[Song & Lyrics by John Newton and W. Walker; CCLI# 254312]

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.

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 first begun.

SERMON: “Our Greatest Certainty” *John 3: 14-21*

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER (*Silent Prayer and Meditation*)

OUR LORD'S WORDS OF CONSECRATION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My α body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

Pastor: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

SHARING THE MEAL OF CHRIST



COMMUNION AGREEMENT

God has welcomed me into the body of Christ through Baptism, and I trust in Jesus Christ as my savior. I confess my sin and my need for God's grace. I desire to live a new life in Christ who I believe is truly present in the Sacrament. In the bread I receive His body and in the wine I receive His blood. Present in this Sacrament are the gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. Believing all this as an adult, I now declare my desire to come to the Lord's Table.

If you have a question regarding our practice of Holy Communion, please consult a member of the staff or an usher.

[Communion cups contain red wine or white non-alcoholic grape juice, for those that prefer.]

SINGING DURING COMMUNION

❖ Band: **"God So Loved"** Berghold / Cash

SENDING BLESSING

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.**

SONG

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

[Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). All rights reserved. CCLI# 254312]

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the chosen one
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no powers, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Serving Us

Vacancy Pastor ... Rev. Ronald Habedank

Praise Band

Reader ... Robin Makosy

Altar ... Gerry Swart, Ruth Zawadzki

Deacon ... Chuck Stevens

Elder ... Dan Rowsell

Ushering Leader ... Chris Kopra

Financials ... Dave & Jane Sirgey, Duane & Sarah Gabel



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