

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Morning Worship for The Sundays in Lent
March 14, 2021

Topic: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Time: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324470555?pwd=Z3dCRVpwSlpjaTRZWlQvRHpmalUhXdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555

Password: 0000

Use your telephone to call this number and enter the ID and Password.

You will be able to speak and to hear the service.

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Introduction to the Day: 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.

PRELUDE: *Benedictus*

Max Reger; *John Anderson, organ*

THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER from the *Book of Common Prayer*

Pastor Marschhausen

Blessed be God, the Father, the Son , and the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(First John 1:8,9)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ ✝,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, **have mercy upon us. Amen.**

HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

- 1 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.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
- 5 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Reverend Johnson

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, 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.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The First Reading – Numbers 21:4-9

Reader from Concordia

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From 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. ⁵The 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.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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. ⁸And 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.” ⁹So 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Verse for the Day – (John 3:16)

Pastor Marschhausen

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

The Epistle Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10

Reader from St. Mary's

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in 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.

³All 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.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Hymn

God Loved the World

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

The Holy Gospel – John 3:14-21

Deacon Winzler proclaims the Gospel ...

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Those 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. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Marschhausen

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Reverend Johnson

Together with all the baptized in Christ, let us confess our faith.

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.

The Prayers of the People

A Reader from St. Mary's

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of your church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry in Manchester and Connecticut, in our Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and the New England Synod, in our Lutheran and Episcopal global partner churches, and in everyone who carries the name of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Bless medical researchers everywhere who strive to overcome diseases and pandemics. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill our congregations to overflowing with your grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our shared ministries. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long and the challenges daunting. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION...

Pastor Marschhausen

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am baptized into your death and resurrection.

I seek you daily. I worship and adore you.

Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul,
as you always have,
through Confession and Forgiveness,
through the proclamation of your holy Word,
and through the prayers of your people;

that I may remain united to you

by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace.
Be for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.

And return us all, Lord Jesus, to your Holy Table when this is over.

I pray all this, trusting that you are our life,
our peace, and our everlasting joy. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS *Intercessions and Thanksgivings follow...*

Reverend Jofinson

Now I invite your prayers for all the needs of the world God so loved, silently or aloud.

*After each petition we pray, Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.***

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Pastor Marschhausen

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; *N. and N..* God mercifully grant you the riches of grace, that you may please God both in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reverend Johnson

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Pastor Marschhausen

You are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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.
- 4 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!

Deacon Fedorchak dismisses the assembly...

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES:

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DAILY READINGS FOR MARCH 15-20

Monday, March 15

Psalm 107:1-16

Exodus 15:22-27

Hebrews 3:1-6

Tuesday, March 16

Psalm 107:1-16

Numbers 20:1-13

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wednesday, March 17

Psalm 107:1-16

Isaiah 60:15-22

John 8:12-20

Thursday, March 18

Psalm 51:1-12

Isaiah 30:15-18

Hebrews 4:1-13

Friday, March 19

Psalm 51:1-12

Exodus 30:1-10

Hebrews 4:14—5:4

Saturday, March 20

Psalm 51:1-12

Habakkuk 3:2-13

John 12:1-11