

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

See and Live
March 10 & 11, 2018
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Fiery serpents. Snakebites. Death from poisonous venom. A bronze serpent atop a pole. This sounds more like a scene out of Hollywood than out of the Bible! Yet, these are all part of the picture that unfolds in today's Old Testament Reading, where we encounter the elements of sin, punishment, repentance, and rescue. This all might make for a confusing script, except Jesus sheds light on what it all means. "And 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" (John 3:14-15). We should see ourselves in this account, but more important, we should see our Savior.

WELCOME

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."
(Psalm 51:10-12, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #454 "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, As a victim won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us His Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the no-blest tree;
Non in foliage, non in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption, For the weight that hung on the tree!

Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

(Rise)

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O Lord, throughout these forty days

People: You prayed and kept the fast;

Pastor: Inspire repentance for our sin,

People: And free us from our past. Amen.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

People: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, out of love for the world you sent your only Son to be lifted up on the cross.

People: Grant that we would believe in Him unto eternal life, that we would be rescued from the poison of sin and death;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM SONG #592 “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”

Dearest Jesus, we are here, Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given As a child and heir of heaven.

Your command is clear and plain, And we would obey it duly;
“You must all be born again, Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit, And My kingdom thus inherit.”

Therefore we have come to You, In our arms this infant bearing.
Truly here Your grace we view; May this child, Your mercy sharing,
In Your arms be shielded ever, Your on earth and Yours forever.

Gracious Head, Your member own; Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne; Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever From Your side this branch forever.

Now into Your heart we pour Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav’nward soar; May our hearts’ desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given; Write it in the book of heaven!

✘ WORD ✘**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Numbers 21:4–9* (Moses and the bronze serpent)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And 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 loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:1–10* (God raised us up with Christ.) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in 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 coming ages 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 a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

CHOIR ANTHEM (5:00) “*Deep Waters*”

Their fishing nets were empty when they first saw the Lord. All night they had been fishing in the waters by the shore. The Lord said, “Go to deep waters, cast your nets once more.” And because they obeyed, they would never be the same. Go to deep waters, deep waters, where only faith will let you go. Go out to deep waters, deep waters, harvests of faith will over flow. Harvests of faith will over flow. Go. They cast their nets and almost before they could begin, their nets were over flowing and they had to pull them in. And though this was their greatest catch their fishing days would end. For they abandoned all when they heard the master’s call. Go to deep waters, deep waters, where only faith will let you go. Go out to deep waters, deep waters, harvests of faith will over flow.

CHOIR ANTHEM (8:00) *“God Loved the World”*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:14–21* (The Son of Man must be lifted up.) And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

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.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus’ blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

SERMON *“For the Love of Light or Darkness”* *John 3:14-21*

(Rise)

8:00 APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the earthly and eternal needs of both the Church and the world. Almighty God, bless us with bold, unwavering trust in the grace and salvation found in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up that all may be saved.

People: **Fill our hearts with the joy of salvation and make us thankful for all the good gifts from above that we neither merit nor deserve.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for the faithful proclamation of Christ’s saving name, that God’s people may be strengthened in the true faith and His Gospel Kingdom extended to all nations, asking your blessing also upon Pastor Ferry and Rachel Meyer.

People: **We pray also for this congregation, its mission and its people; praying for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Pastor: Lord of life, we give you thanks for the gift of life and join with George and Rosie along with the Krauss family as they celebrate Charlie’s 10th birthday.

People: **We pray also that you would bless and comfort George and Rosie as they remember Lorraine on her birthday.**

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, we rejoice as the kingdom of Christ extends among us, as Anthony Joseph Allen and Lauren June Flessert are baptized into Christ, becoming heirs of His kingdom.

People: **Bless their parents to raise them in the nurture and admonition of Jesus and bless them, along with us, to grow daily in the grace and knowledge of Christ.**

Pastor: God of all wisdom and knowledge, we pray for the educational institutions of our Synod: our preschools, day schools and high schools, our colleges, universities and seminaries, and our own St. Paul's Lutheran School.

People: We pray for all the baptized, both those who teach and those who learn, that they would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ.

Pastor: God of grace, we pray for all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefit of forgiveness of sins.

People: At Christ's altar, we pray also for renewal of life and the vision to look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the blessed feast to come in eternity.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for the president, Congress and Judiciary of the United States; for the governor and legislature of this state; and for all government agencies, civil servants, judges and officers of the law.

People: We ask that peace, security and justice may be preserved, allowing freedom and opportunity to live peaceably and share the Good News of the message of Christ.

Pastor: God of compassion and healing, we pray for those who are sick, especially Lisa, Nancy, Sue, Janet, Donna, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Manley, Pat, Ruth, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jean, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah.

People: Grant them healing in their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, trusting always in Christ.

Pastor: God of comfort and hope, we pray for all who mourn the loss of family and friends, especially the O'Brien family as they mourn the passing of Nicholas. Bless also Jerry and LuEva as they remember their parents, Gerald and Olga as well as Louis and Dorothy.

People: Father, grant them to find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body.

Pastor: Lord of love, we pray for those who suffer from the lack of any human necessity, that you would bless them and be with them.

People: Move us and all people who have been blessed with an abundance to cheerfully share with those in need.

Pastor: O Lord, God of heaven and earth, merciful and gracious, holy and loving, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our once-for-all sacrifice for sin. Remember not our sins, but forgive, renew and strengthen us to fight the good fight of the faith. Grant us repentance, faith, and perseverance until you return or call us home, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI #434

"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

Stanza 1

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #702 "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:
O 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!

8 continued

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;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

HYMN #566 "By Grace I'm Saved"

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not. Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught? No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth. God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth; His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands, Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace-grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

HYMN #744 "Amazing Grace"

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!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

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

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

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.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that in your
Supper we receive the benefits of the salvation your Son earned for
us on the cross. Strengthen us in faith toward you and fervent love
toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: Be with us through this season, Lord,

People: And all our earthly days,

Pastor: That when the final Easter dawns,

People: We join in heaven's praise. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

CLOSING HYMN #837 “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*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be; Praise to the Crucified for victory!*Refrain*

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Children’s Message
Organist /2-4 Grades
Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Dalen Heinzen, Debra Nier
Kaden Hutchins, Ashton Poritz
Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince
Nancy Hoelke