



Altar Copy

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Zion Lutheran Church

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Jon Meister, Presider

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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSERTED MUSIC *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (ELW 334)

Please stand as you are able. Sing only verses 1 and Lent 4

- 1 Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

CONFESSION

Please continue to stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole World, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**



ENTRANCE HYMN: *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)

Sing only verses 1, 3, and 4.

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE. W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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LENTEN GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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
- C** Amen

FIRST READING: Numbers 21: 4-9

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor they 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.

PSALM: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- ²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.
- ¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.
- ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.
- ²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.
- ²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2: 1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

[WOV Setting Four Lenten Acclamation \(Melody\).tif](#)

GOSPEL: John 3: 14-21

The Holy Gospel according to _____, the _____ chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴And 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.

¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷Indeed, 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.



SERMON

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God Loved the World* (ELW 323)

Please stand as you are able. Sing only verses 1, 4, and 5

God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*. Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD. Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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APOSTLES' CREED

A Join me in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C 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

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the Church, the well-being of creation, and a World in need.

Silence for reflection.

A Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global Church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your Church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the Earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the Earth. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen**

SHALOM

P **Peace be with you.**

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

P Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

- P** Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the World.
C **By day and by night he shines for all to see.**
- P** Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
- P** God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
- P** Jesus is the light of the world.
C **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
- P** Sing to God a new song!
C **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the World.**

PREFACE

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(Preface is in the pocket of the Pastor's binder.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus **took bread**, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he **took the cup**, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray the prayer you taught us:

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.
 God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779)

Sing only verses 1, 3, and 5

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God. *We go out - Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's love. Amen! (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)*

POSTLUDE

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SO EVERY OTHER TIME
"THE WORLD" GETS USED
IN JOHN, IT REFERS
"ALL THAT IS AGAINST GOD?"

YES,
THAT'S
TRUE.



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SO JESUS IS SAYING
THAT HE IS GIVEN BY GOD
TO THOSE WHO
ARE KNOWN TO BE
GOD'S ENEMIES?

YEAH.



BET WE DIDN'T SEE
THAT COMING.

NO.
NO, WE
DIDN'T.



JOHN 3:14-21

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