

LENT 2021



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**Rev. Debra North, Pastor
Ms. Molly Finkbiner, Director of Music
Ms. Maritza Oquendo, Parish Secretary**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 14, 2021

PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please stand as you are able.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord has called you here this day.

Lord, reveal to us your purposes for us.

Open your hearts to receive God's good news.

Lord, make us ready to serve you.

Come, let us worship God!

Let us sing our praises to the Almighty One. AMEN.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the redeeming love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY.

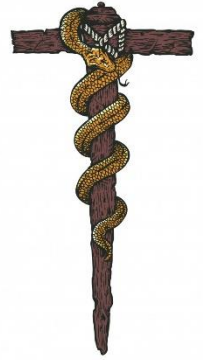
O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,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

The Lord be with you. **And also with You.** (You may be seated)

FIRST LESSON

The first lesson is found in **Numbers 21:4-9**

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.



Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22 (Read responsively.)

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let 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.

¹⁷**Some 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.

¹⁹**Then 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.

²¹**Let 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 LESSON

The second lesson is found in **Ephesians 2:1-10**

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE (*Spoken*)

(Please rise if you are able.)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL (*Please remain standing.*)

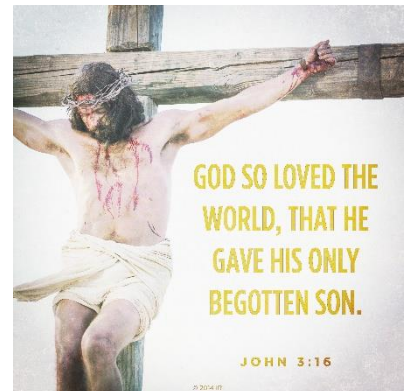
The Holy Gospel according to **John 3:14-21**

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.** (you may be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"He Touched Me" – by *William J. Gaither*,
sung by *Phil Newlander*, accompanied by *Molly Finkbiner*.

MESSAGE (*you may be seated*)

HYMN OF THE DAY *spoken* – **"God Loved the World"** - LBW 292

- 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 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.
- 4 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.

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

LENTEN CREED (*Please stand as you are able.*)

I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth, who gave humanity free will and entrusted this precious world to us.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord, who was born in a manger by Mary, a woman of humble beginnings. Refusing to seek power, and turning away the sword, He died for us, the Lamb of God. He descended into the darkest of places, but rose again on the third day, bringing life and hope to all.

I believe in Christ's humble spirit, conceiving the holy, apostolic and universal church, which is among us and beyond us, before us and after us. I believe in a church comprised of sinners and saints, imperfect and in need of grace, yet blessed – the Body of Christ. I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(please share the peace of Christ with others with a wave from your seat, then be seated.)

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. The gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Let us prayer. O Lord our God, you have commanded the light to shine out of darkness, and you have again brought us to your house of prayer to praise your goodness and ask for your gifts. Accept now in your endless mercy the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant us those requests which will be wholesome for us. Make us to be children of the light and of the day and heirs of your everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of your mercies, your whole church, all who join with us in prayer, all our sisters and brothers wherever they may be in your vast kingdom who stand in need of your help and comfort. Pour out upon them the riches of your mercy, so that we, redeemed in soul and body and steadfast in faith, may ever praise your wonderful and holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always through all ages of ages. **Amen.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

PRAYER LIST

Judy H., Mya, Anneliese, Gertrude, Tim, Pr. Debby, Eddie, Cheryl, Carol, Bruce, Denis, Megan, Gertrude, George, Mike, Jennifer, Sue, Tina, Alex, Donna, Ginger, Karen, Janet, Rachel, Jenn, Ginger, R.C., Richard, Forrest, Roy, Jeanine, Leslie, Cory, Shirley, Deb, Kathy, Tom, Glen, Margery, Lillian K., Bruce and Members of the armed services, the congregation of St Paul of Tannersville.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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.

BLESSING

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.**

SENDING HYMN (*YouTube Video*) – **"50 COVID AFFECTED COUNTRIES sing AMAZING GRACE"** – by The Normal Christian Life.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**





Preludes: "Aria." Music: Paul Manz. ©1989 Morning Star Music Publishers.

Offering: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" - ELW 611. Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

Special Music: ""He Touched Me" – by *William J. Gaither*, sung by *Phil Newlander*, accompanied by *Molly Finkbiner*.

Postlude: Postlude in G by Gerald Peterson

HYMN OF THE DAY *spoken* – "Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said - LBW 398

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.

SENDING HYMN (*YouTube Video*) – "50 COVID AFFECTED COUNTRIES sing AMAZING GRACE" –

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