

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14 2021, 9:00 am



Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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.



Gathering

Prelude

Ornamented Chorale on “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Hamburg, arr. David Schelat (b. 1955)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Entrance Hymn

ELW 803



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the reign of God, and for mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For your Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

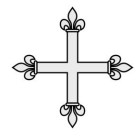
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Prayer of the Day

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.



Word

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

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.

From 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. 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 detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The 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. And 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.” So 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

*The Choir sings the refrain first, please sing the second time. The refrain will be sung again once after the psalm verses. It is indicated by an **R**.*

Give thanks to the Lord_ for his mer - cy,

and the won - ders he does for his__ chil - dren.

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
and his mercy endures for ever.

²Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that he redeemed them from the hand o the foe.

³He gathered them out of the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;
they were afflicted because of their sins.

¹⁸They abhorred all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁰He sent forth his word and healed them
and saved them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy
and the wonders he does for his children.

²²Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy. **R**

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

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.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in 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. All 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. For 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

Choir: 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. (John 3:16)

Gospel

John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the third chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[Jesus said:] “Just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Pastor Miller

Hymn of the Day

ELW 779



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.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, 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 power of 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

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

After the words "we come to you", please sing the following response.



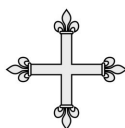
Text and music: Ralph C. Sappington, b. 1952
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

The prayers conclude:

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

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



Thanksgiving

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or on the Give Plus app.
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved. Amen.

God so loved the world
Text: John 3:16, 17
Music: John Goss (1800-1880)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of the wilderness, we come to you in gratitude for the abundance you bestow on us. Empower us to share the gifts you have given us. Use these offerings to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

Sending

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

ELW 593

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the

light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a

sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

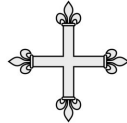
Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

New Britain, arr. Charles W. Ore (b. 1936)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members from Schola Cantorum

Sarah Pfanz, *soprano*

Tacy Downing, *alto*

Ralph Watkins, *tenor*

Jeff Jox, *baritone*

8@8

Lenten Devotions every morning (except Sundays) at 8:00 a.m. EST

www.saintluke.us

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. EST

Created for Community: Never Alone

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