

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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Supported Missionaries Rev. Chuck Ferry and Family & Chelsea Irwin

"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"



Fourth Saturday and Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 13, 2021 6:00 pm and Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:30 a.m.

As We Gather

Look out! There were snakes biting the Israelites, sent by God as punishment for complaining about the manna, that miraculous food He gave on the way to the Promised Land. But look up! See the bronze serpent Moses put on a pole. Everyone who looked up at the serpent will live. The serpent was a type of Christ, a parallel symbol in the Bible. We, too, have snakes—our discontent with God’s daily blessings and lack of faith in His promises. But as we look up in faith to Jesus, the Christ on the cross, we shall be saved. That faith is a gift of God in His grace. Jesus is the center of the gracious Good News. We are God’s workmanship, and now He holds the door open as we walk through, looking up to Jesus.


PREPARATION

Opening Hymn


Lift High the Cross

LSB #837


Refrain




Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

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

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

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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8–9; Psalm 107:1–2; Ephesians 2:4–5, 8; John 3:17

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** God's steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.
- C** **Although we are on the way to the heavenly promised land, like the Israelites in the desert, we complain about many things. We are sinful and unclean at heart and often follow the desires of the body and the mind.**

- P** God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,
- C** **made us alive together with Christ.**

- P** God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
- C** **but in order that the world might be saved through Him.**

- P** By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Introduction

- P** Today is the "lightest" Sunday in Lent, once called Laetare, for the old Introit that began "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem." Our Readings call us to look up to Christ on the cross and rejoice, for by grace He leads us from death to life.

Opening Sentences

Numbers 21:9; Ephesians 2:4–5; John 3:16

- P** Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone,
- C** **he would look at the bronze serpent and live.**

- P** But God, . . . even when we were dead in our trespasses,
- C** **made us alive together with Christ.**

- P** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
C **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Psalm

Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19

- P** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
C **and He delivered them from their distress.**

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

- P** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
C **whom He has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

- P** Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
C **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.**

- P** He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
C **Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of men!**

- P** For He satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul He fills with good things.
C **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

WORD

Kyrie

- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who saved us while we were still sinners,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, once lifted upon the tree of the cross,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9 (ESV)

Israelites who look up to the bronze serpent live

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 2:1–10 (ESV)

We are saved by grace

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² 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— ³ 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. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21 (ESV)

All who look up to Jesus on the cross will be saved

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn

God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB #571



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 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 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.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

It Seems So Obvious

Offering (*Offering and attendance cards can be placed in basket at the back.*)

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their various circumstances.

When the Israelites became impatient, they spoke against God and against Moses. Let us pray for all who are in positions of authority in our nation and others, that God would give them wisdom to seek ways to meet the needs of their citizens, providing for equal justice and stability for everyone within their borders. And let us pray for police and armed forces, that God would protect them as they maintain security and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Many people follow the course of this world carrying out their desires, by nature children of wrath. Let us pray for people who influence our culture and society but without faith in our Savior, that God would open their eyes to look up to Christ on the cross, working faith in their hearts, and making them alive together with Christ. And let us pray for lay and clergy leaders of the Church here and around the world, that God would give them strength and opportunity to spread the Gospel with joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P When the Israelites were in the wilderness without food and water, God provided manna. Let us pray for all who lack adequate food, clothing, and shelter, that He would provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to channel the resources He provides to where they are most needed. And let us pray that all who manage God's bounty, serving Him so that it moves from mine to tool, from farm to table, from warehouse to storefront, and from street to home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P The psalmist remembered that when “they cried to the Lord in their trouble, . . . He delivered them from their distress.” Let us pray for all who are troubled in body, mind, or spirit, both those near and dear to us, [*especially . . .*], and those known only to God, that He would bring about healing, relief, comfort, and peace as fits His gracious plans for them. And let us pray for ourselves and all who care for the sick and dying, that we serve our gracious God using the gifts He provides. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

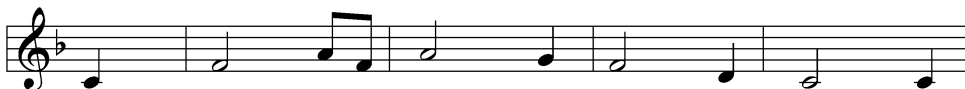
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

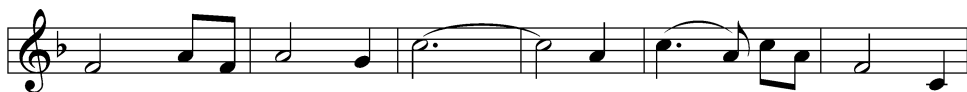
Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

LSB #744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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