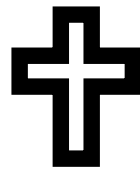


# Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:00 am

Communion



*281 Years of  
Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love!*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – led by the Reverend Michael Poteet

## INTRODUCTION

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.

## PRELUDES

9:00 am

**On Tannenberg: "Adagio"**

W. A. Mozart, Arr. by Lani Smith

**"My Jesus I Love Thee"**

A.J. Gorden, Arr. by Robert W. Thygerson

**On Allen Organ: "Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless"**

O Lamm Gottes, Unshculdig, Setting, Robert J. Powell

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

With love and pride on my daughter, **Jessica's** birthday by Laura Clark.

## GREETING

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

C: And also with you.



**HYMN "God Loved the World" – ELW #323, Vs. 1, 2, & 5**



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



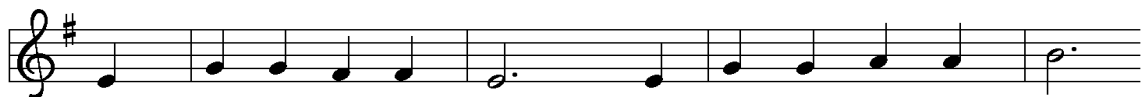
him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: 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.

**KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

C: Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A: God of life,

C: Holy God, 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.

A: 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.

*Please be seated*

## 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.*

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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.

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

R: <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.

<sup>19</sup>Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL:

R: The Holy Gospel according to John,

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### John 3:14-21

*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:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

## SERMON HYMN "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" – ELW #335, All Verses

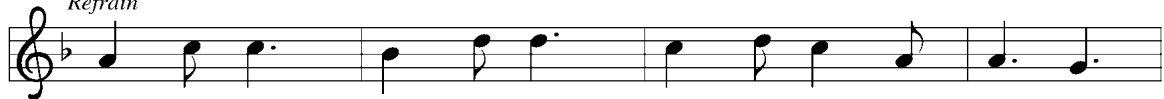


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

### *Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

*A brief silence.*

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, *especially the **Schuylkill and Lehigh 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, *especially **Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Greg Wicker, Don Walt, Cindy Batten, Joan Emswiler, Hilary Cohen, Valerie Bazzley, Cristin Lorman, Jeanette Kaufmann, Aubree Pascale and Ellen Gray***. 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.**

P: 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.**



## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

*Let us share the peace with one another*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### "Heart of God"

Words and Music by Aodhan King and Jonas Myrin, Arr. by Matt Schinske

Piano Solo by Lori Hoshaw

*Please stand*

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

*Please stand*



*Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

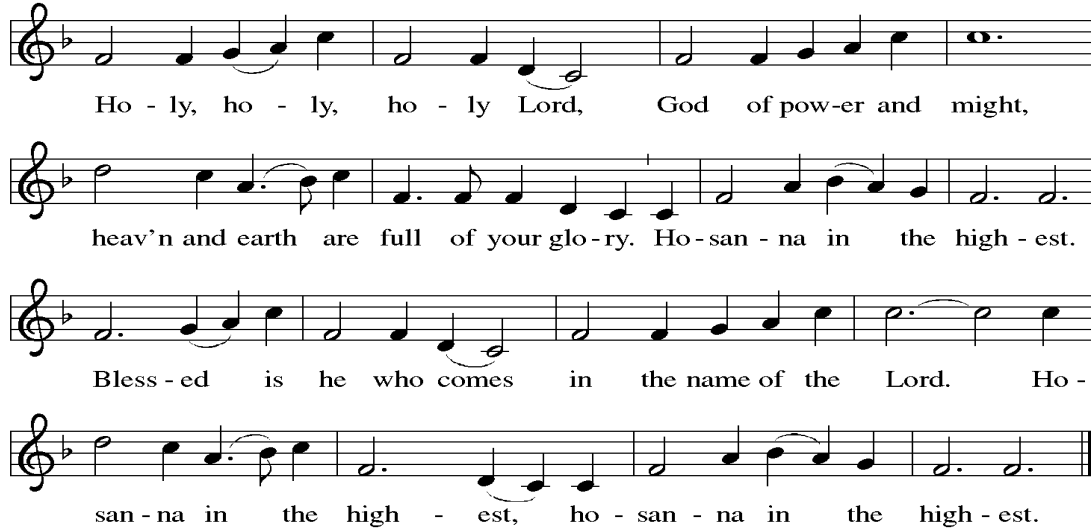
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father through Christ our Lord. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HYMN

### “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, the beginning and the end, you are our salvation and our hope. We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages, your son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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**

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray,

A: 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!

C: Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### **#1 – “Here is Bread” – ELW #483, All Verses**

Text and Music by Graham Kendrick

### **#2 – “Bread of Life From Heaven” – ELW #474**

Text: Susan R. Briehl, Music: Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

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**

**"I am the Bread of Life" – ELW #485, Vs. 1, 4, & 5**

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of the Man . . . and . . .  
 I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -  
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -  
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his  
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you  
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain  
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

**"Trumpet Tune"**

Samuel S. Wesley, Setting Nancy Raabe

## Bible Readings for the Week

Monday	Exodus 15:22-27	God gives the people water
Tuesday	Numbers 20:1-13	God gives water from the rock
Wednesday	John 8:12-20	Christ the light of the world
Thursday	Isaiah 60:15-22	God is our light
Friday	Hebrews 3:1-6	The faithfulness of Moses
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-16	God gives food and light

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