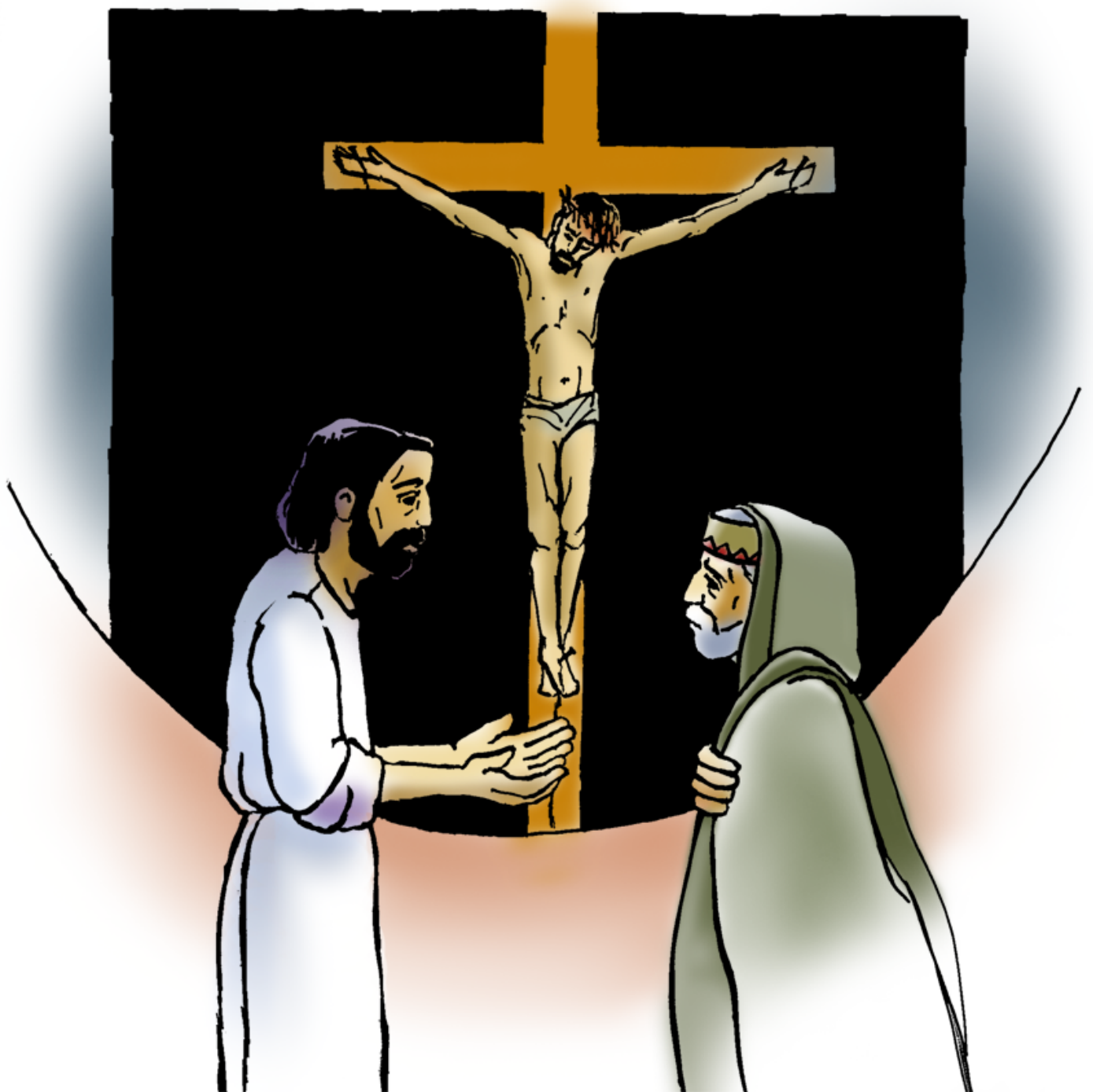


Fourth Sunday of Lent



Fourth Sunday of Lent

ELW Service of the Word

St. Paul Lutheran Church – March 14, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

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

Medley of Lenten Hymns

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins.
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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

Kyrie Eleison

*'La Folia' one of the oldest remembered European musical themes,
in Finland known as 'Lampaan polska'*

Trad.

D⁵

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

6 Dm A

mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy. Her - ra ar - mah - da.

11 Dm A Dm A Dm A Dm

Kris - tus ar - mah - da. Her - ra ar - mah - da. Kris - tus ar - mah - da.

17 F C Dm A

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

21 Dm A Dm A Dm

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

25 F C C^{#dim} Dm A

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

29 Dm A B[>] Gm A Dm

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thank be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22



You de - liv - er your peo - ple from their dis - tress.

Psalm 107:19

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures 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 re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner 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. R**
- 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. **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.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

THE GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John.

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:] 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.

SERMON

The Reverend Luther Zeigler

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; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

A Brief Silence

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit including those on our prayer list and those whose names we offer now...; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died. That your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

SOLO

Precious Lord, Take my Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey
Soloist: Carolyn Stowell

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children,
you know the secrets of our hearts.
When we sin and stray from your paths,
you astound us with your saving grace.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

Loving Jesus, living Word,
in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found.
Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we need not fear,
for you are with us.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus,
giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Praeludium

Heinrich Scheidemann

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Luther Zeigler

Reader: Don Johnson

Cantor: Carolyn Stowell

A/V Support: Martha Johnson

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

Liturgical materials and texts are used by permission of *Sundays and Seasons Augsburg Fortress License: 15150*

One License Annual License: A-724876 for 03/06/20 – 03/05/21

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1123 Washington St., Gloucester, MA 01930
978-283-6550, office@stpaulcapeann.org

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR RIGHT AFTER THE SERVICE

A short, social gathering will be held on Zoom immediately after the service. If you want to participate, just stay signed on to Zoom and Luther will join just as soon as the postlude concludes. Our hope is that this will be a way to interact on Sunday mornings beyond our shared worship. It may not be a real coffee hour, but we will make it fun!

LENT MICRO-PRACTICE BOOKLETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

A micro-practice is a small spiritual practice. Some are active, some are reflective. They will make you think, act, connect with God and others, and live into your Christian life.

Email Robin at familyministry@stpaulcapeann.org or call the office at 978-283-6550 if you would like a booklet mailed to you or daily offerings emailed to you. Some booklets have been placed in the bin outside of the pre-school door for pick-up as well.

OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTOR LUTHER ZEIGLER

Pastor Luther will be in the church offices every Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and it available for individual visits from 10 a.m. to Noon and from 2-3 p.m. He is happy to meet inside or outside, using all necessary precautions regarding distancing and wearing masks. Please call him (617-999-6419) or email him (luther.zeigler@gmail.com) if you would like to make an appointment. He is also always available for pastoral emergencies.

PRAYER LISTS

Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week: Daneen R., Sonny M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Willy G., Jim W., Brian D., Ron M., Judith O., Rachael and Tyler, Verna, Ron F.

Armed services: Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

Please see the FYI emails for more information