

The *Grace*
of *God* is
with *you!*

Sunday Worship
Together on-line as a community of Christ
Big Spring United Lutheran Church with
Zion Lutheran Church, Newville

March 14, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MOLLY HAGGERTY, Pastor

TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 89.7
www.bsulc.org
www.zionnewville.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The *congregation*, or participants, *respond* with the lines in *bold type*.

PRELUDE

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.

Litany For The Fourth Sunday Of Lent

During Lent, we remember the events that led up to the crucifixion. Jesus had come to bring hope and light to the world, but at every step there were those who could not accept the power of the light. He came to meet the people's needs, but there were those who misunderstood the kind of needs that Jesus meant to fill. Because he would not do what they wanted, they rejected him.

According to John, Jesus was teaching a large crowd who had followed him because they had seen his miracles of healing the sick. Jesus saw the large crowd of more than 5,000 men, and asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?"

Philip knew that they didn't have enough money to buy even a small amount for everyone. But Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a small boy who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish, but they will certainly not be enough to feed all these people."

Jesus had the people sit, and then took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people. He did the same with the fish. Everyone had as much as they wanted, and when the disciples gathered what was left, they filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the barley loaves.

Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said, "Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world!" Jesus could sense that they were about to make him king by force, so he went off again to the hills to be by himself.

Jesus came into the world to change it, not to be made to fit into some mold that others felt was right. When Jesus refused to be what others wanted, they turned their backs on him, and a little of the light that had come into the world was put out.

*(Extinguish one of the remaining candles
in the crown of thorns.)*

HYMN: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*
(ELW 334 verse 4)

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



Give us eyes to see you clear - ly; make us



child - ren of your light. Give us hearts to live more



near - ly as your gos-pel shin - ing bright, as your



gos-pel shin - ing bright.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: 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.

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

L/C by whole verse

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 3:1-12

[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.”

GOSPEL RESPONSE

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

5 COVENANTS OF GOD:

PROMISE OF ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

(Silence for a time of reflection)

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

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

A brief silence.

℣ You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

📖 From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

🙏 **Your mercy is great.**

📖 You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

🙏 **Your mercy is great.**

📖 Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn (especially). Hear us, O God.

🙏 **Your mercy is great.**

📖 By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

🙏 **Your mercy is great.**

📖 Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

🙏 **Your mercy is great.**

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

✠ Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

℣ Let us pray. Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

✠ Amen.

DIALOGUE

℣ The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

℣ Lift up your hearts.

✠ **We lift them to the Lord.**

℣ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✠ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

The elements were given as you entered.

P The body of Christ given for you.

C Amen.

P The blood of Christ shed for you.

C Amen.

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

C Amen.


THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

If you have any prayer needs, please reach out to us on our Facebook page or websites.

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