

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

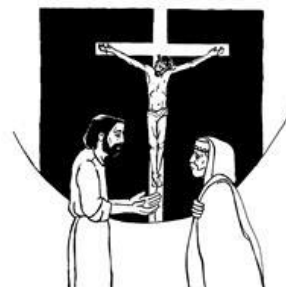
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Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

**Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE

Aberystwyth

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake**

of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***HYMN What Wondrous Love Is This**

**What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

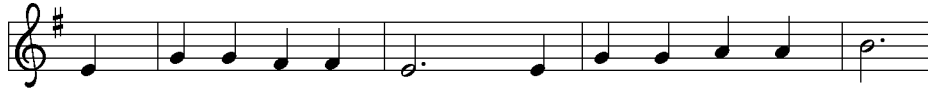
Tune: WONDROUS LOVE

***THE GREETING**

P 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

*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!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

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.

THE FIRST LESSON.....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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

1Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

**2Let 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.

**17Some 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.

**19Then 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.

**21Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

22 Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

THE SECOND LESSON.....Ephesians 2:1-10

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 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. 3 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. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 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

C 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**

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

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

[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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith:

C **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

***THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system, all using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est." The third staff continues with lyrics: "Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -". The fourth staff concludes the phrase with lyrics: "san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs and accents.

P 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.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Come to this meal and be fed.

C **Amen**

THE COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen

*HYMN **God Loved the World**

**God loved the world so that he gave
 his only Son the lost to save,
 that all who would in him believe
 should everlasting life receive.
 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
 forgives all sins that you have done,
 and justified by Jesus' blood,
 your baptism grants the highest good.**

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.
Tune: ROCKINHAM OLD

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Gethsemane* David Cherwien (b. 1957)

+++++

Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, George Kissinger, Philip Thomas.

Prayers of Sympathy and Peace: St. Mark's was saddened to learn of the death of Esteban Mazer. Please keep his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTORS 8 am Becky Pryor/ 10:30 am Mel Wentzel
CANTOR/SONG LEADER (10:30 am) Ray Huff
ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: March 14

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff
10:30 am Tim Maggs- Captain: Carl Heiber, Charlie Fortin, Connie Shaible (side door)

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God:
In honor of our Aunt Roxie Larson and in loving memory of our Aunt Marion Larson by Nancy and Ernie Larson.
In loving memory of Elmer D. and Eva F. Hunt, William W. and Frederica M. Bastian by Romain and Evelyn Bastian.

Our Stewardship (03/07/2021)

Regular Offering	\$3, 886
Plate Offerings	\$ 152
Lent	\$ 196
Initial	\$ 5
Food Pantry	\$ 20
Sunday School	\$ 6
Disaster Relief	\$ 223
Flowers, Memorials, Tributes	\$ 85
Synod Benevolence	\$ 25

GRAND TOTAL **\$4,598**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Camp Mt. Luther is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from our Church Office (570-323-4619).

Lutheran Disaster Relief

Sub-freezing temperatures and heavy snow has impacted millions of people across our nation, especially in Texas and other southern states. This has led to power, water and food shortages. Lutheran Disaster Relief Response seeks to provide short-term and long-term relief. You can help. An offering basket alongside our regular offering basket has been provided for your convenience. If you choose to give by check, please indicate “US Severe Storms” on the memo line. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule, 2021:

Maundy Thursday (April 1, 2021)

One Service of Holy Communion in the nave at 7 pm. Due to CDC Guidelines the service will not include foot washing.

Good Friday (April 2, 2021)

Virtual Community Good Friday Service only. Time and details for the link TBA.

Holy Saturday (April 3, 2021)

No Vigil this year due to COVID-19

Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021)

8 am Easter Eucharist (Nave)
9:15 am Sunday Church School
10:30 am Easter Eucharist (Nave)

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Mid-week Lenten Services (Wednesdays in Lent) are virtual (video only) and may be viewed on our web site and Facebook page. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

COMEMMORATIONS

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Friday, March 19, 2021

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted to God, Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.