



¹⁴And 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.

~John 3:14-15

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 15, 2015

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Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 15, 2015

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: Two Settings of *Rockingham Old* – Robert Buckley Farlee & Healey Willan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake God 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.
Amen.

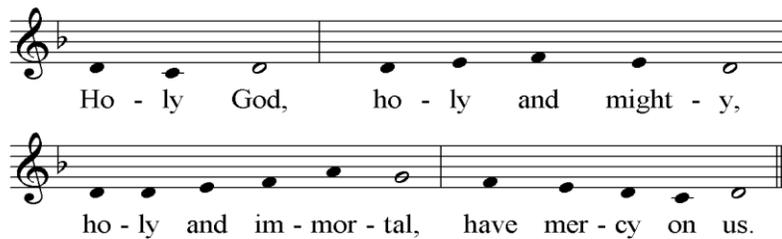
GATHERING SONG #323: *God Loved the World

***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.

***TRISAGION**

A cantor sings the Trisagion, and all repeat it twice.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Numbers 21: 4–9 (page 139 in Old Testament)

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.

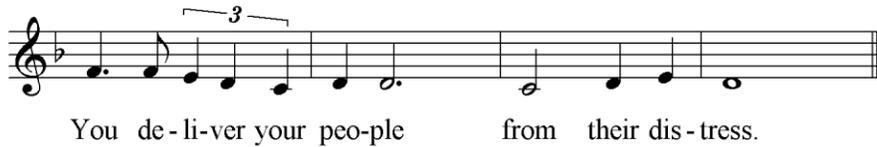
⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this 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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107

The congregation sings the **bold** verses; all sing the refrain together.



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

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand¹ of the foe,**

³gathering them in¹ from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and¹ from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took re-¹bellious paths;
through their sins they¹ were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all man-¹ner of food
and drew near¹ to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried¹ to the LORD
and you delivered them from¹ their distress. R**

²⁰You sent forth your¹ word and healed them
and rescued them¹ from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your¹ steadfast love
and your wonderful works¹ for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices¹ of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with¹ shouts of joy. R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2: 1–10 (page 192 in New Testament)

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.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins² 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. 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 us⁵ even 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Glo - ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.



God so loved the world that he gave his on-ly Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have e-ter-nal life.

***GOSPEL READING: John 3:14 –21** (page 94 in New Testament)

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.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴And 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.

¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷Indeed, 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #666: *What Wondrous Love is This

***NICENE CREED**

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Loving God, make your church bold proclaimers of the gospel, so that those who do not know the depth of your love in Christ will hear and believe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give us hearts filled with love for your creation, so that our words and deeds bear witness to the unending care you have for the whole cosmos. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage nations to work together for the sake of all people. Break down barriers that prejudice has built up, and restore the dignity of every living thing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Provide respite and healing for all who suffer, especially Nan, Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Hold all people in your expansive love, and restore wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Turn our hearts to praise as we are forgiven, healed, and freed from every evil that binds us. Shine your light upon us, so that nothing about our life in you is hidden. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide those who are discerning your will in their lives. Be with our bishop and call committee as they seek a new pastor for this congregation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Resurrecting God, we remember those who now worship at your throne, and with expectant hearts we await the day when all will behold you in glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #338: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our 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.

***PREFACE**

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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

***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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *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.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Jesus, Remember Me*



Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.



***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #335: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Prelude in e minor* – Johann Pachelbel

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Marlene Strabel

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Larry Werner

Attendance Last Week: 62

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,755.44

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 30,309.97

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 24,730.90

10:30 am

Assisting Minister:

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance last year: 54

Last Week's Giving: \$ 2,191.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$ 25,331.84

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