

**Old Testament Reading:
Numbers 21:4-9**

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And 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 loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

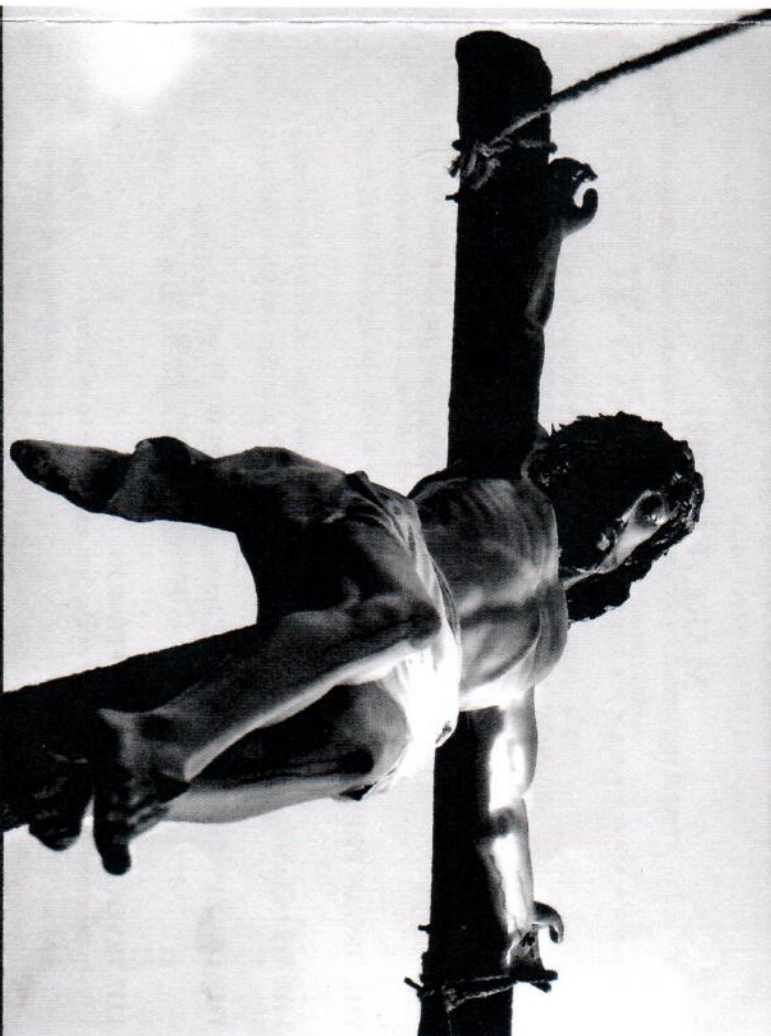
¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵seven when we were dead in 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 coming ages 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 a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."



*Whoever
believes in Him
should not perish
but have eternal life*



Lent

About the Cover: Jesus was lifted up on the cross so that all who look to Him for salvation would have eternal life. In that great Scripture of John 3:16, we also have the perspective of God looking down upon the world in love. Christ's act of going to the cross is the definitive act of God's love for us. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

The HYMNS are from the Lutheran Service Book (Maroon Book)
Please stand at the appropriate times.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN NO. 423 - "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"
(Please stand to sing stanza 3)

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: 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 on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom / shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I / be afraid?

C: Though an army encamp against me, my heart / shall not fear;* though war arise against me, yet I will be / confident.

P: One thing I have asked of the LORD, that I will seek / after:* that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His / temple.

C: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of / trouble;* He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high up- / on a rock.

P: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son* and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning,* is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

C: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom / shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I / be afraid?

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE - "To God Be the Glory" (See page 3)

To God Be the Glory

Fauna J. Crosby, 1820-1915

William H. Doane, 1832-1915

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done;
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

And o - pened the Life - gate that all may go in.
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,
 And give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done.

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (Be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Numbers 21:4-9

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on / Jesus,*
 the founder and perfecter / of our faith,

C: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
 / despising the shame,*
 and is seated at the right hand of the / throne of God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCOUNT: John 3:14-21

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. (Please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN NO. 437 - "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE COMMUNION WILL BE
ASKED TO COME FORWARD AFTER PASTOR DISMISSES
THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION. IF YOU ARE LEAVING,
PLEASE DO SO AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.

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The Presiding Minister - Rev. James A. Haugen, Jr.

The Organist - Karen Kostelnik

The Head Usher - Steve Szucs

Caring for the Altar - Martha Prok

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office 440/234-5806

Pastor Haugen Cell #440/376-6275

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated after making confession of our faith)

THE SERMON HYMN NO. 566 - "By Grace I'm Saved"

(Please stand to sing stanza 6)

THE SERMON - "By Grace I'm Saved."

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

(Stand)

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

THE PRAYERS

After each petition the pastor will say "Lord, in Your mercy."
Congregation to respond with "Hear our prayer."

THE LORD'S PRAYER