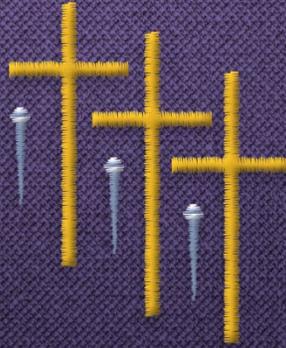


FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT

March 14, 2021



+ PREPARATION +

HYMN ~ 915 *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us / To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, / Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy / Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us / And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open, / And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome / And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, / A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, / A glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us; / His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather / Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us / How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, / It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy, / O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You / When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, / To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, / One ear will hear our prayer.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Numbers 21:9; Ephesians 2:4-5; John 3:16

Pastor: Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone,

People: **he would look at the bronze serpent and live.**

Pastor: But God, . . . even when we were dead in our trespasses,

People: made us alive together with Christ.

Pastor: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

People: that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

PSALM

Psalm 107:1-9; antiphon: v. 19

Pastor: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

People: and He delivered them from their distress.

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

**People: whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Pastor: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

People: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

Pastor: He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

People: Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of men!

Pastor: For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

People: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN ~ 935 *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord*

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! / Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word; / In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name! / Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same; / His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might! / Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, / The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word! / Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord / To children's children and forevermore!

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+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 27:3-5; antiphon: v. 1

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?

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

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I 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.

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 upon a rock.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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?

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, while we were still dead in sin, You came as one of us to die for us and bring us to eternal life. Give us strength of faith to look up to You each day of our sojourn until we see You face-to-face in eternity;

People: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ~ *Numbers 21:4-9*

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN ~ *O Come, and Let Us Look Up*

*O come, and let us look up to Je - sus Christ, our Lord,
The found - er and per - fec - ter of faith placed in God's Word.
Who for the joy be - fore Him en - dured the cross's pain,
De - spis - ing what sins wrought, their pun - ish - ment and shame.
For that which He ac - com - plished for all hu - man - i - ty.
At God's right hand He reigns, now and to e - ter - ni - ty.*

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EPISTLE ~ *Ephesians 2:1-10*

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN ~ *566 By Grace I'm Saved*

1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; / My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? / Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain: / By grace you too will life obtain.

2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; / Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer, / Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone, / And we are saved by grace alone.

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HOLY GOSPEL ~ *John 3:14-21*

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN - 571 *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

- 1 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.
 - 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, / Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone / Are built on this chief cornerstone.
 - 3 God would not have the sinner die; / His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares / How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
 - 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son / Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, / Your Baptism grants the highest good.
 - 5 If you are sick, if death is near, / This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; / That is the firmest ground of faith.
- D 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, / And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, / Be praise now and eternally!

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SERMON - "Global Problem - God's Solution" John 3:16

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING ~ *Online giving is available on the website.*

OFFERTORY ~ 895 *Now Thank We All Our God*

- 1 Now thank we all our God / With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, / In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms / Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love / And still is ours today.
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God / Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts / And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace / And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills / In this world and the next!

D 3 All praise and thanks to God / The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns / With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, / Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, / And shall be evermore.

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+ SACRAMENT +

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 107:1-2; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8; John 3:17

Pastor: Having heard the Word of God, as we prepare to receive the body and blood of our Lord in, with, and under bread and wine, let us confess our sins to our gracious heavenly Father. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: God's steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

People: **Although we are on the way to the heavenly promised land, like the Israelites in the desert, we complain about many things. We are sinful and unclean at heart and often follow the desires of the body and the mind.**

Pastor: God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,

People: **made us alive together with Christ.**

Pastor: God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

People: **but in order that the world might be saved through Him.**

Pastor: By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in gracious love You sent Your only-begotten Son to die for us on a cross made by sinful humans and to rise to lead us from spiritual death to eternal life with You and saints and angels in heaven above; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN ~ "The Lord of Hosts Is Holy"

"The Lord of hosts is ho - ly! The Lord of hosts is ho - ly!
The Lord of hosts is ho - ly! His glo - ry fills the earth!"

The ser- a - phim to - geth - er Cried out their ex - ul - ta - tion.
The Lord filled all the tem - ple With glo - ry from His throne.

That bril - liant, fear - some vi - sion Was fol - lowed by a call - ing.
In faith, I - sa - iah an - swered And spoke pro - phe - tic words.

"The Lord of host is ho - ly! The earth is filled with glo - ry!"

In wor - ship - ful a - maze - ment We cry: "Ho - san - na, Lord!"

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be lifted up upon the cross. Looking up to Him by the faith Your Spirit has given us, we see Your grace in saving us, from being dead in sin to living with You in everlasting life. Gathered in His name, we ask that You forgive, renew, and strengthen us as we receive His body and blood in this Sacrament. Receive us together with all the faithful from the ends of the earth that we may celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN ~ 971 *There Is a Redeemer*

1 There is a Redeemer—Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, / Holy One. *Refrain*

refrain Thank You, O my Father, / For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit / Till the work on earth is done.

2 Jesus, my Redeemer, / Name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, / Hope for sinners slain. *Refrain*

3 When I stand in glory, / I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever / In that holy place. *Refrain*

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DISTRIBUTION *(In the Sanctuary)*

THE DISMISSAL

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

Pastor: As Simeon held the baby Jesus in the temple, he said,

People: “**Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we give thanks that through this Sacrament You have again strengthened our faith in Your saving grace that through Christ we are freed from being dead in sin to being alive to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN ~ *744 Amazing Grace*

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven’s joy and peace.
- 5 When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.

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