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# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

*“So must the Son of Man be lifted up.”*

[John 3:14]

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## WELCOME

We're glad you chose to worship with us.

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*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

Gilbert Martin

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

## BELL

## GATHERING PRAYER

*Adapted from the Prayers of Martin Luther*

*Stand as you are able*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign  
that is marked at baptism, as we begin.*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Waken our hearts, our God;  
make them ever watchful to serve You and Your purposes.

**Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work.**

**Trouble us with the greatness of Your command  
to make disciples of all nations.**

**Trouble us with Your great love for sinners and  
our own slowness to make You our greatest love.**

**Trouble us with the brevity of our lives and  
time, talent, and treasure not invested in eternity.**

Comfort us by drawing us to Yourself with the cords of  
Your unfailing mercy.

Comfort us, O God, with the assurance of our salvation and  
unending glory with You when we suffer and are afflicted.

**Rekindle in us a renewed desire  
for the coming of Your glorious kingdom  
when all wrongs will be made right,  
when everything that is broken will be made whole,  
and when we will trade a cross for a crown.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

### *Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

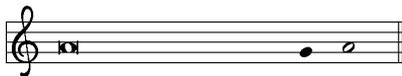


church gath - ered to - day.

## GREETING

The joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



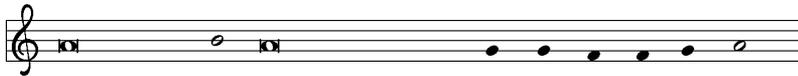
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## There in God's Garden (verses 1-4)



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

*Sit*

## READING

## Numbers 21:4-9

### *Lifting up the serpent in the wilderness*

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.

## READING

## Ephesians 2:1-10

### *Saved by grace through faith*

1You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2in 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 us 5even 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.

### *Stand as you are able*

## GOSPEL VERSE



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.

*Lifting up the Son of Man*

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."

*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand as you are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY      What Wondrous Love Is This      ELW 666**



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

## A LENTEN CREED

**We believe in God the Creator, whose goodness fills all creation with irrepressible beauty and truth, whose patience and generosity exceed all human expectation, and whose glory neither earth nor the heavens can contain.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, the true Child of God, who came with a disruption that shook the powers of evil, though it cost him his life; who from beyond death came back to gather his disciples into community; who refused to be intimidated by threats, or overcome by any religion that had no grace.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the source and sustainer of abundant life, who from the very beginning flows from God, enhancing the gifts of the church in the service of humanity.**

**We believe in the church as the universal body of Christ, in the forgiven people as the sharers of Christ's peace, in the timeless, mystic fellowship of all God's people, and in the life that transcends all sorrow and death. Amen.**

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*Stand as you are able*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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 (especially). 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. 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.**

**PEACE**

*Stand as you are able*

## **SENDING PRAYERS**

Merciful God, hear our prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

**May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence.**

May their caregivers, families, and neighbors be shielded from the spread of the virus.

**Give comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.**

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure.

**May their work conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.**

Help us rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

## **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.**

## **BLESSING**

Let us bless our God;  
**Praise and thanks to God.**

May God who has brought us from death to life  
fill us with great joy.

**May almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us now and forever. Amen.**

**SENDING SONG Will You Let Me Be Your Servant ELW 659**



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.  
walk the mile and bear the load.  
speak the peace you long to hear.  
till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
let you be my ser - vant, too.

**DISMISSAL**

Be the light of Christ. Proclaim the good news.  
Heal the sick. Share your bread with the hungry.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Wondrous Love

Gordon Young