



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

March 11, 2018

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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March 11, 2018
8:45 AM 4th Sunday in Lent
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
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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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

Singing Bowl

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed, what new life and promise await us.

PRELUDE . . . *Leilani Camara & Michael Keating*

WELCOME

Please Stand

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the wilderness of life, we are not alone.

All: God is with us, even in the midst of our loneliness.

L: On the treacherous paths, God's guidance is ours.

All: We will walk in God's ways of wisdom and truth.

L: Come to hear. Come to learn.

All: Here we find grace. Here we find love. Here we will worship and pray.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful God,

All: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

HYMN . . . "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" vs 1, 3

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane - Tune: Frederick C. Maker -Cranberry Book #338



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



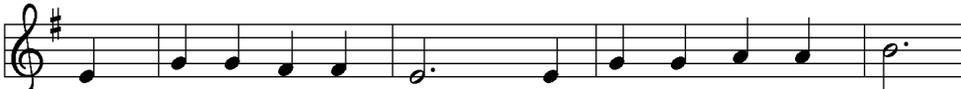
from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day,
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

GREETING

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

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

L: 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.

All: 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.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “*God So Loved the World*”

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Lead us in your truths, O God.

All: Teach us your ways and your paths.

Reader: Instruct us through your word,

All: As we humbly receive your lessons.

FIRST READING . . . *Numbers 21:4-9*

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.

From 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. 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 detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that

many Israelites died. The 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. And 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.” So 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.

SECOND READING . . . *Ephesians 2:1-10*

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 sins 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. 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 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.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the third chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL . . . John 3:14-21

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"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.

"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. Those 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. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the

world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But 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.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . "Were You There?" - Carmen Blair

Please Stand

HYMN . . . "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" vs. 1, 2

Text: Latin hymn – Tune: J. Klug – Cranberry Book #759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!

Be Seated

HOMILY . . . Pastor Tim

Please Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As the Israelites brought the first fruits of their harvest, in gratitude for entry into the land of promise,

All: let us bring our gifts and offerings, in gratitude for God's abundant grace in our lives.

Be Seated

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (sung twice)

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,

All: that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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." With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: 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.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For

the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

All: All are welcome at God's table.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table after the Lamb of God is sung.

LAMB OF GOD



1 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.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Holy Communion is open to all.
Grape juice is white, wine is red.
If you desire communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.

All are welcome to the Prayer and Healing Station in the narthex during communion.

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Text: North American folk hymn - Tune: W. Walker - Cranberry Book # 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.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Your Word, O Lord"

Text: Taizé Community - Tune: Jacques Berthier



Your word, O Lord, is a light. My God, en - light - en my



dark-ness. O Lord, my God, en - light - en my dark-ness. O



Lord, my God, en - light - en my dark - ness. Your

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Christ has shown himself among us. God has made a dwelling place in the midst of us. This voice of peace has spoken and love has reached to every heart. May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you unto life everlasting.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Compassionate God,

All: you have fed us with 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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

Be Seated



Please Stand

BLESSING

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT "God Loved the World" vs 1, 4

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen - Tune: Edward Miller - Cranberry Book #323



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

DISMISSAL

L: You are marked with the cross of Christ.

All: We go forth to love and serve the Lord.



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