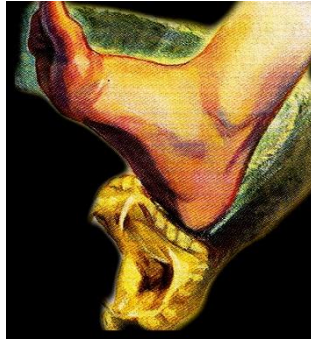


The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday – March 13, 2021 – 5:30 pm. Worship

Sunday – March 14, 2021 – 9:30 am. Worship & Live-Streamed



Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

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THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

† Call to Worship †

Hymn # 571:1, 2-6 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all
 5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your
 Δ 6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves your
 Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 soul from death; That is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Trin - i - ty, Be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Invocation

LSB 203 Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 203 Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Confession of Sins

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

C **Heavenly Father, we come as sinners. You have called us and we have turned away, time after time. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. And yet You have sent Your Son Jesus, to be born, to be one of us; and to carry our sins. Call us once again to the cross, to see the fullness of Your mercy in Jesus. Remind us of the forgiveness He earned and of the victory of the empty tomb. Renew us in faith, lead us in Your ways, and build Your kingdom among us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 203 [John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

† Service of the Word †

Psalm 78:1-16

P ¹Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

C **incline your ears to the words of my mouth!**

P ²I will open my mouth in a parable;

C **I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

P ³things that we have heard and known,
C **that our fathers have told us.**
P ⁴We will not hide them from their children,
C **but tell to the coming generation**
P the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
C **and the wonders that he has done.**
P ⁵He established a testimony in Jacob
C **and appointed a law in Israel,**
P which he commanded our fathers
C **to teach to their children,**
P ⁶that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
C **and arise and tell them to their children,**
P ⁷so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God,
C **but keep his commandments;**
P ⁸and that they should not be like their fathers,
C **a stubborn and rebellious generation,**
P a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
C **whose spirit was not faithful to God.**
P ⁹The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,
C **turned back on the day of battle.**
P ¹⁰They did not keep God's covenant,
C **but refused to walk according to his law.**
P ¹¹They forgot his works
C **and the wonders that he had shown them.**
P ¹²In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders
C **in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.**
P ¹³He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
C **and made the waters stand like a heap.**
P ¹⁴In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
C **and all the night with a fiery light.**
P ¹⁵He split rocks in the wilderness
C **and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.**
P ¹⁶He made streams come out of the rock
C **and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**
Alt **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.

Kyrie

LSB 204 Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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.**

Sit

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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, ⁵even 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

LSB 157 Joel 2:13



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Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴*“ ... And 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[begotten] 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[begotten] 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

LSB 207

C 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 Spirit,
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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Hymn # 432 “In Silent Pain the Eternal Son”

1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;
2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;
3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;

In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.
The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.
To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:

Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est vic - to - ry,
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,

For in His bod - y on the tree He car - ries all our ill.
He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.
And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

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Sermon “The Most Outrageous Sermon Illustration Ever!” John 3:14-15

Stand

Hymn # 956 "Create in Me"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lamb of God who has taken away our sin, who has taught us to pray,

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209 Matthew 6:9-13

- C** 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.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

Hymn # 576 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup -
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous-ness; No mer - it of my
 rest on His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 port me in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -

own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Settings One, Three and Four and

Compline from Lutheran Service Book

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