
✠ THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✠
ORDER OF WORSHIP • MARCH 10, 2024 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✠ KYRIE

MERCY . . . LORD, HAVE MERCY

*The congregation quietly and continuously repeats the phrase
while the cantor improvises*

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Beloved in the Lord, let us confess our sins to God. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God's grace towards us in Jesus Christ.

All: God of grace, you have called us to walk your path of love, all the way to the cross. We confess that we don't always trust in the power of love but rely instead on the power of worldly might and violence. You have called us to walk your path of healing. We confess that we don't always believe in the power of healing but instead rely on the power of revenge and retribution. You call us to forgive as you forgive, to share as you freely share, and to trust in you and your authority. We have fallen short. We have strayed from your path. We have failed to trust in you. Have mercy on us, Lord. Forgive us. Forgive us and turn us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.

WL: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent Jesus into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. In the name of Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen! Thanks be to God!

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

GIVE TO OUR GOD IMMORTAL
PRAISE
LBW #520

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Let us pray. 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.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

NUMBERS 21:4-9

R: The First lesson for this Fourth Sunday in Lent is from the twenty-first chapter of Numbers.

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

R: Our Second Lesson is from the second chapter of Ephesians.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 3:14-21

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS
LBW 377

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

All: **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

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

All: **Amen.**

✠ AGNUS DEI

O CHRIST, THOU LAMB OF GOD
LBW #103

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy up-on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -
est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up-on us!
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace! A - - men

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA
LBW #296

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

✠ CHARGE & BLESSING

based on Psalm 121:5-8

WL: Go out now in faith, trusting in God's promises. Remember how much God loves this world and so love the world in the name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news someone else has been waiting to receive.

May the Lord watch over you. May the Lord keep you from all harm and watch over your life. May the Lord watch over your coming and going now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

✠ SENDING SONG

THIS TRAIN IS BOUND FOR GLORY

This train is bound for glory (3X)

Children, get on board!

No more weepin' and a-wailin'. (3X)

Children, get on board!

This train is bound for resurrection! (3X)

Children, get on board!

No more weepin' and a-wailin'. (3X)

Children, get on board!

✠ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.

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