

Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 14, 2021

10:00

Zion Lutheran Church Camas, Washington

Ministers: the entire congregation

Susan Dollinger, Associate Pastor

Pam Ensley, Youth Minister

Karen Rezabek, Praise Team

Patricia Hagensen, Administrative Assistant

Church office 834-4201; email info@zionluthcamas.org

Hours: Mon 8-12:00, Tues-Fri 8-5:00

“As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share God’s saving grace for all.”

INTRODUCTION

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.

Welcome – Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: *we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.**

Gathering Hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Number 807

1. Come, thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I’m come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand’ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

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. 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm Reading Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God’s mercy endures forever. ²Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe, ³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted. ¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door. ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord and you delivered them from their distress. ²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave. ²¹Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people. ²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

You 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

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

C: ***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Gospel Reading John 3:14-21

Jesus said: “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. ¹⁶“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. ¹⁷“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. 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Message Pr. Susan Dollinger

Hymn of the Day “How Firm A Foundation” Number 796

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
3. "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply. The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
4. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; 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 natural disasters. 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, especially those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation with that grace, that we may show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter, especially the Adopt-a-Room, Treasure House and WHO. 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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: ***And also with you.***

Please share a time of peace online with one another using the chat comments or with someone next to you or spend this time in prayer.

"God So Loved the World"

John Stainer

Prayer of Preparation

Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn *"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"* Number 335

- 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

Refrain

- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Our thanks to this morning's musicians: Pat Hagensen, Gary Ritter, Judy Swanson

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"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Text: Robert Robinson

Music: NETTLETON; J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II

"How Firm A Foundation"

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*;

Music: Early American, FOUNDATION

"God So Loved the World"

Text and Music: John Stainer, edited by Harry Boulton

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"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Text: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: William H. Doane, NEAR THE CROSS