

Fourth Sunday in Lent

St. James Lutheran Church

Fishersville, VA

Sunday, March 10, 2024

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (LBW 107)

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.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . . .

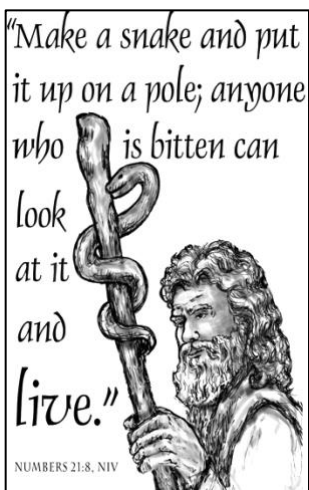
O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading:

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.

Numbers 21:4-9



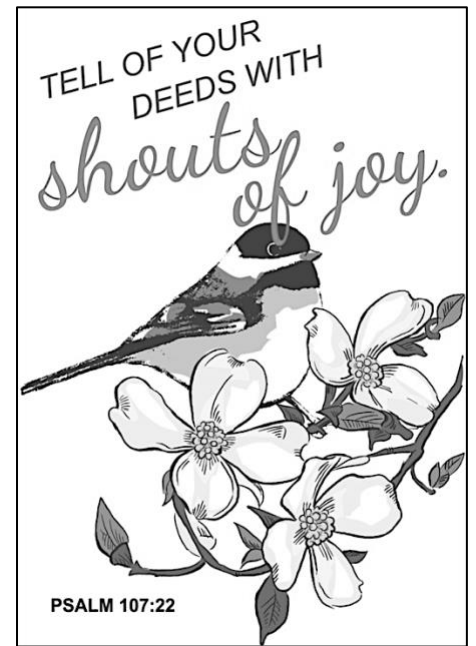
⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we 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.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

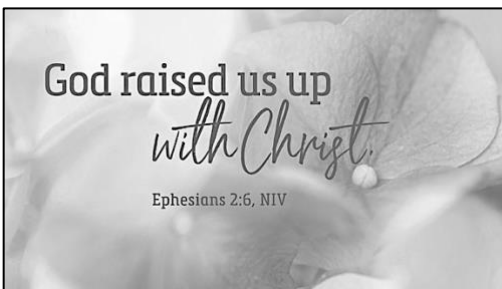
- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- ²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷Some were fools and took 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:

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.

Ephesians 2:1-10



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.

Here ends the reading.

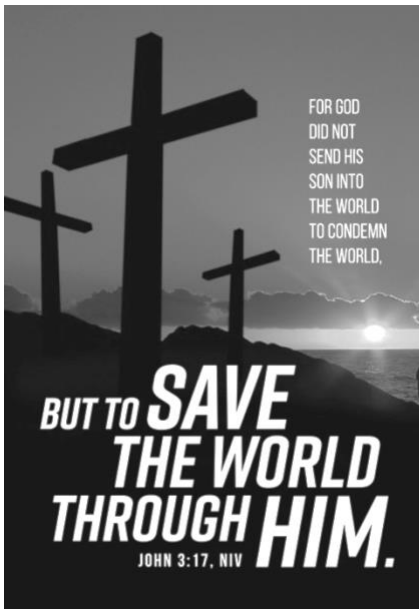
Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.



[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

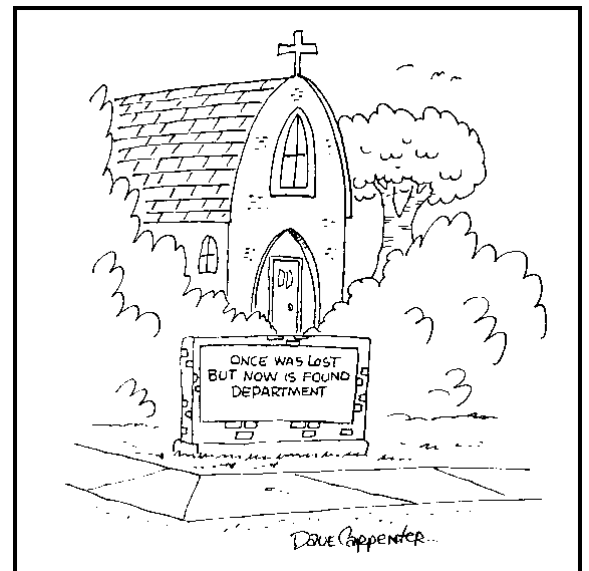
SERMON: Rev. Carl Trost

HYMN OF THE DAY “Deep Were His Wounds”(LBW 100)

APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and
born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again 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.**



THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. We especially pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Becky, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Bonnie, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, and Ronnie. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Anthem, "As the Winter Days Grow Longer" Text, Mary Bringle, Music, SUO BAN, Welsh Melody.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

that all people may know your goodness.
 Feed us not only with this holy food
 but with hunger for justice and peace.
 We pray this in your name.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

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.

March

10 th	Sherie W-Rohal
17 th	Flora Williams
24 th	Sherie W-Rohal
28 th	Maundy Thursday Ivan Diehl
29 th	Good Friday Anne Putnam
31 st	Bambi Straw

MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

13 th	Calvin Jordan
22 nd	Becky Dick

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable
grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life

Amen.

Closing Hymn "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" (LBW 92)

Blessing

Beloved, we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

National Quilt Day March 16th

The Quilt Group will be partnering with The Grace Quilt Group for quilting and fellowship from 9am to noon at St. James followed by lunch at a restaurant to be determined (Dutch Treat).

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer


Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt).

Prayer Concerns

Becky Dick, Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Bonnie Snyder (Danny's mother), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), and Ronnie Jones.

Community Conversations

- March 12th Quilting Group meets at 1pm.
- March 13th 9am Council meeting.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - March—Paul Rohal
 - April—Anne Putnam

 <h2 style="text-align: center;"><i>Back Pack Needs</i></h2>	<p>We need your help! The Backpack program has grown to 22 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.</p>													
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mac and cheese</td> <td>Kroger meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chef Boyardee meals</td> <td>Fruit cups</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boxes of cereal</td> <td>Poptarts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oatmeal</td> <td>Ramen Noodles, any kind</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boxed juices</td> <td>Yahoo chocolate milk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apple sauce</td> <td>Raisins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>“Hugs” Drink Barrels</td> <td>All single servings</td> </tr> </table>	Mac and cheese	Kroger meals	Chef Boyardee meals	Fruit cups	Boxes of cereal	Poptarts	Oatmeal	Ramen Noodles, any kind	Boxed juices	Yahoo chocolate milk	Apple sauce	Raisins	“Hugs” Drink Barrels
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NEW OUTSIDE LIGHTING

A solar powered motion detector light has been installed on the outside wall near the entry door to the Fellowship Hall. Please do not attempt to change the settings on the fixture. This new fixture will light up the steps only at night.

Lenten Services

Our Lenten journey this year is titled “Sing With All The Saints in Glory.” Each week we will lift up the lives of saints from the past. You will find a list of the many saints that we commemorate in the front of our hymnal. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our own Christian journey.



March 13th Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm worship
Striving for Justice

Archbishop Oscar Romero was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador and was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980.

Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt becoming refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler.

March 20th Bethlehem Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Dying and Rising with Christ

Hans Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher who initiated a religious revival in his home country, Norway.

John Donne was a seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London.

Pastor Gordon Putnam
 434-760-0263
 Grputnam1949@gmail.com
 Pastor Carl Trost
 Hannah Pingel, Pianist
 Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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