

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024 8:30 AM

## For Those Desiring Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

## As We Gather



We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

## Preservice Music

## Welcome

## Hymn of Invocation: 420 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

**Invocation** *(Please stand, spoken responses)*

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Exhortation

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession of Sins

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

## Absolution

*[John 20:19–23]*

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.

**Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

**For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

**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.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

**Kyrie** *(Sing)*

*Mark 10:47*

**Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day: Lent 4** *(Spoken responses)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4–9** *(Please be seated)*

<sup>4</sup>From 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. <sup>5</sup>And 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."

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

<sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>So 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle: Ephesians 2:1–10

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in 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—

among 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.

<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

<sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—

“Chiasm”

**by grace you have been saved—**

<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

<sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,

which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel: John 3:14–21** *(Please stand)*

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

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever 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 Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And 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. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

**Children's Hymn of the Month "The Children Cry Hosanna"** *(Please be seated)*

The children shout, "Hosanna!"

And the men cry out, "Hosanna!"

And the women cry "Hosanna!"

O King of Israel.

Blessed is He who comes in the name

Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is He who comes in the name

Who comes in the name of the Lord.

And the babies cry, "Hosanna!"

And the old men cry, "Hosanna!"

Everybody shouts "Hosanna!"

O King of Israel.

**Children's Object lesson**

**Hymn of the Day: 571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"**

**Sermon "From Death to Life" (Ephesians 2:1-10)** *(Please be seated)*

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church** *(Please stand)*

**Preface** (*Spoken responses*)

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

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.**

It is truly good, right, and salutary.... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** (*Sing*)

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

*Text: Stephen P. Starke*

**Lord's Prayer**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**Agnus Dei**

*John 1:29*

**1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Text: Stephen P. Starke*

**Distribution Hymn: 636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"** (*Please be seated*)

**1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**Benedicamus** *(Spoken responses)*

*Psalm 103:1*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn to Depart: 588 "Jesus Loves Me"**

### **Leaving**

### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

---

**St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS),**

**503 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723, (989) 673-4214**

**Pastor:** Cameron Steele (989) 673-2516 CCLI#277564

**Organist:** Karen Elmy