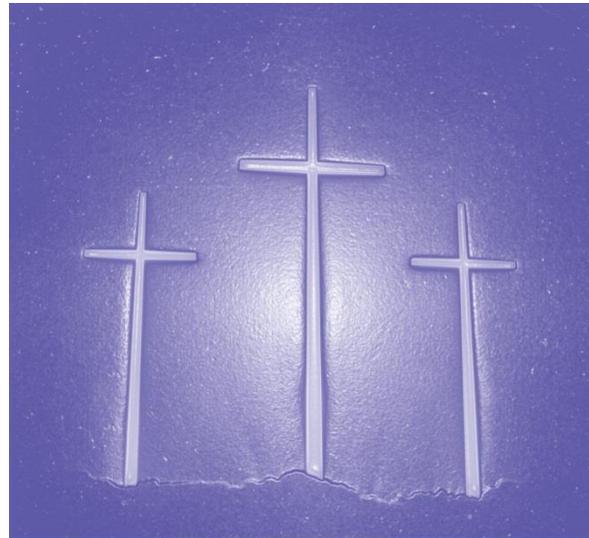


# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2015



For **God** did not  
send his **Son** into the  
world to condemn  
the world, but to **save**  
the world through **him**.

JOHN 3:17, NIV



## Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 [www.holycrosskitchener.org](http://www.holycrosskitchener.org)

“By God’s grace, the members of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a caring, vibrant diverse community of blessed believers, lovingly reaching out with the message of Jesus Christ.” - *Vision Statement 2010*

Volume 68 No. 11

March 15, 2015

## The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 am - Holy Communion Services

9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages

6:30 pm - Adult Instruction Class #8

### Opening Hymn

**Come thou Fount of Every Blessing** *LSB #686*

### Invocation and Responsory ~ Psalm 27

*Pastor* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Pastor* 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?

*People* **One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: 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 seek Him in His temple.**

*Pastor* For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

*People* **Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at His tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

*Pastor* Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

*People* **My heart says of You, "Seek His face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.**

*Pastor* I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

*People* **Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.**

### Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

*Pastor* Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*People* **Return to the Lord Your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.**

*Silence for reflection*

*Pastor* All-gracious God,

*People* **we confess that we have sinned against You in thoughts, words, and actions. We have boasted of our own works. We have spoken against You in complaint. We have rebelled against Your will. We have scorned Your love. Forgive us our sin, for Jesus' sake.**

*Pastor* Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, has made us alive with Christ. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God gave us Jesus, that we might not perish, but that we might have everlasting life. We are saved by God's grace!

*People* **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Prayer for the Day

*Pastor* Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Father, Your mercies are new every morning, although we in no way deserve them. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may recognize Your goodness to us, be thankful for it, and serve You in willing obedience. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord---He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*People* **Amen.**

### Hymn

**There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God,  
Messiah, Holy one.**

### There is a Redeemer

### Chorus

**Thank you, O my Father,  
For giving us your Son  
And sending your Spirit,  
Till the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God Messiah,  
Hope for sinners slain. *Chorus***

**When I stand in glory,  
I will see his face;  
There I'll serve my king forever,  
In that holy place. *Chorus***

### Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

<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.

*Pastor* This is the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

<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—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.

*Pastor* This is the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Anthem

(11:00 - Men's & Ladies Group)

### "Saved By Grace"

By Douglas C. Eltzroth

### Holy Gospel: St. John 3:14-21

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

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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 works were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works 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 works have been carried out in God."

*Pastor* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hymn****When I Survey the Wondrous Cross** *LSB #426***Sermon**

St. John 3:14-21

**“OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT”****Nicene Creed**

*All* 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.

**Prayers of the Church****Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offerings****Service of Holy Communion**

*Pastor* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Pastor* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Pastor* It is truly right and proper for us to praise You, O God, for out of Your great love You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. You have called us to faith in Him, and by grace have saved us. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we give You praise and glory as we sing:

**Sanctus Hymn****Holy God, We Praise Your Name** *LSB #940 vs. 1-2*

**Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in heav'n above adore Thee.  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign**

**Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord!**

*Pastor* Lord, remember us when You come into Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

*People* **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.**

**Words of Institution**

*Pastor* Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Greeting of Peace**

*Pastor* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

**Agnus Dei Hymn**

Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God....

**Refrain**

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God....*Refrain*

I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God....*Refrain*

**Distribution Anthem***(8:30 - Men's & Ladies Group)***“Saved By Grace”***By Douglas C. Eltzroth***Distribution Hymns**

**God Loved the World so that He Gave** *LSB #571*  
**Amazing Grace** *LSB #744*

**Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

*Pastor* Grant, gracious Lord, that having seen and tasted Your goodness in this Holy meal,  
we may be strengthened for service to You, and that having received Your grace, we  
may do the good works which You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, our Lord,

*People* **Amen.****Benediction**

*Pastor* 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.

*People* **Amen.****Hymn****Give thanks with a Grateful Heart** *LSB #806*

**Preacher** ..... Pastor Roland Syens  
**Officiant**..... Pastor Nolan Astley  
**Communion Assistants**..... (8:30) Pastor Wentzlaff, (11:00) Emmanuel George, Rick Hutfloetz  
**Organist**..... Jennifer Massicotte  
**Men's & Ladies Group**..... Lauren Gray, Chantal Massicotte, Jennifer Massicotte  
..... Tasha Massicotte, Caitlin Pritchard  
..... Brian Hallman, Gerry Lantz, Kevin Lovell, Claude Massicotte  
**Acolytes** ..... (8:30) Sydney Steinman, (11:00) Isabella Schmidt  
**Sound Operators**..... (8:30) Marty Stanfel, (11:00) Claude Massicotte

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**Prayer Concerns:** – In our prayers today we remember **Doris Hahn, Fred Kahlmeier, and Murray Schmidt** who have been in hospital this week. We also rejoice with **Jeff and Vera Famme** as they welcome daughter **Vivian Shamiso** into their family.

**Pastor Astley asks for your prayers** as he considers a nomination to serve as President of the Alberta British Columbia District of Lutheran Church – Canada. President Schiemann is retiring following their convention in May 2015. Given the crisis in the District at this time we ask God to raise up the person He would have serve in this office at this critical time.

**Last Chance for Easter Plants** if you're willing to donate a hydrangea or lily to beautify our altar for Christ's Resurrection Day in April. Posters are on bulletin boards around the building. If you want to designate yours as a memorial or thankoffering you still need to sign up on the posted lists, but pick up a form at the Welcome Centre, fill it in, and drop it off in the box outside the church office.

**Adult Information Class..**Our topic is "About Stewardship & Eternal Life". Let's talk about being a Christian steward? What does God say about our use of time and abilities? All are welcome to join us!

## Coming Events...

**Midweek Lenten Services** continue this **Wednesday, March 18, at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.** This week is based on the parable of the workers in the vineyard. In this parable, all workers in a vineyard are given the same pay from the master, no matter how long they have labored. This parable shows that all who have been called by the Master are blessed by the same reward in Christ. The **Jubilation Male Chorus** will be singing at the **7:00 p.m.** Lenten Service. Come and hear these talented men lead us in song.

**Kammerchor comes to Bethel-Kitchener** The Kammerchor Touring Choir from Concordia University Wisconsin will be performing at Bethel Lutheran Church, Kitchener on **March 18 @ 7:00 p.m.** For more information contact Bethel at 519-742-1589

**NEW!!!! Toronto Summer Mission Opportunity!** Are you looking for a way to serve? We are looking for youth, young adults and adults who will serve in a one week VBS program at Trinity Lutheran Church in Toronto from **Sunday, July 12 to Friday, July 17, 2015.** If you are interested in being a part of this exciting mission opportunity please attend the **Information Meeting** on Sunday, March 22 following the late service in the Triple Bible Classroom. If you are not able to attend the meeting or you would like more information please contact Pastor Roland Syens at 519-742-5812 or syens@holycrosskitchener.org or Emily Pritchard at emily\_pritchard29@hotmail.com.

**Easter Breakfast Reminder..**if you will donate muffins or other baked goodies to our Easter breakfast on **Sunday, April 5, 8:30-10:00 a.m.**, please sign up in the parlour at the Welcome Centre. It helps to plan.

**Women of Holy Cross:** Please plan to attend our annual Renewal Weekend, **April 17 and 18.** Information is available in your pigeon holes. Registration forms are available at the welcome desk, or can be e-mailed to you by requesting one from the church office.

## Please Note...

**Reach Out for Easter** by giving one of the invitations available at the Welcome Centre desk. Your personal word asking a friend, family member, neighbour, or a church member you haven't seen lately, to join you for Easter worship goes much farther than almost any other outreach effort you can imagine!

**New Sermon Cd's** are available at the Welcome Centre. They include Sunday sermons from February 22, March 1 & 8 as well as Wednesday Lenten sermon's from February 18, 25 & March 4.

**E100** We're continuing our journey through the essential 100 readings of the Bible, focussing now on the New Testament. Watch for the next video to land in your mailbox tomorrow!

### PAUL TO THE LEAERS

36. Elders and Deacons	1 Timothy 3:1-3:16
37. The Love of Money	1 Timothy 6:3-6:21
38. Good Soldiers of Christ	2 Timothy 2:1-2:26
39. All Scripture is God-breathed	2 Timothy 3:10-4:8
40. The Coming of the Lord	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

## Today's Education Hour...

**2 More Sundays to Bring Cereal:** Thanks to your generous support we have delivered **279 boxes of cereal** to Historic St. Paul's Community Cupboard as of March 10. We'll top last year's collection if we bring in 152 more boxes minimum! Can we do it? Yes, with your help!

**Nursery through Gr. 5** students study the account, **Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33).** Jesus was gracious to Peter when he feared drowning. Jesus is gracious to us and is ready to catch us as we sink in sin and unbelief; His hand is always strong to save us.

**Gr. 6/7** students continue the unit, "Succeeding In School". Today's lesson explores, **Who Am I? Only Jesus can free you to be yourself.**

**Youth (Gr. 8-12)** meets for **Responsibility: Give Me More! Help Me Handle It!**

**YABS (Young Adult Bible Study)** meets for ongoing study of **Isaiah 58: The True Fast.**

**Adult Bible Class** will continue to consider Lenten word of the week, which is the work "Rejoice." We will look at Psalm 122, "I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

## Last Week at Holy Cross...

<b>Lenten Attendance:</b>	52 & 131	Total 183	('14 – 146)
<b>Sunday Attendance:</b>	94 & 220	Total 314	('14 – 304)
<b>Young Adults Bible Class:</b>	Pupils: 3 Staff: 2	Total 5	('14 – 10)
<b>Youth Bible Class:</b>	Pupils: 5 Staff: 1	Total 6	('14 – 7)
<b>Sunday School Attendance:</b>	Pupils: 44 Staff: 18	Total 62	('14 – 37)

**Thankoffering:** In honour of **BLESSINGS RECEIVED** to the Sunday School from Howard Knipfel.

## Weekly Calendar

Monday, March 16 to Sunday, March 22, 2015

<b>Monday</b>	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i> .....	10:30 a.m.
	Griefshare, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday</b>	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i> .....	6:30 p.m.
	Board of Parish Education, <i>Panel Room</i> .....	7:00 p.m.
	Board of Stewardship, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> .....	7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	LWML Quilters, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> .....	9:00 a.m.
	<b>Lenten Service</b> , <i>Church</i> .....	1:30 p.m.
	LINC, <i>Everywhere</i> .....	5:30 p.m.
	<b>Lenten Service with Jubilation Male Chorus</b> , <i>Church</i> .....	7:00 p.m.
	Board of Worship, <i>Youth Centre</i> .....	8:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i> .....	9:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> .....	9:30 a.m.
	Stephen Ministry, <i>Panel Room</i> .....	1:30 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	Small Group Bible Study, <i>Parlour</i> .....	7:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	SNL, <i>Downstairs</i> .....	3:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	
	<b>Divine Service</b> , <i>Church</i> .....	8:30 a.m.
	Sunday School, <i>Downstairs</i> .....	9:45 a.m.
	Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i> .....	9:45 a.m.
	YABS, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> .....	9:45 a.m.
	Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth Centre</i> .....	9:45 a.m.
	<b>Divine Service</b> , <i>Church</i> .....	11:00 a.m.
	Toronto Mission Meeting, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> .....	12:15 p.m.
Adult Instruction Class, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> .....	6:30 p.m.	

## Pre-authorized Offering Program

The Board of Stewardship has approved a plan to offer a Pre-authorized Offering Program to Holy Cross member. This will not replace the Contribution Envelopes system. It will be an additional option to those members who would like an automatic monthly withdrawal taken from their bank account.

There will be one withdrawal each month on the 20<sup>th</sup> (or the next business day). The entire amount will be credited to Unified Budget. The monthly withdrawals will be entered into the Holy Cross computer system, the same as the weekly contribution envelopes.

Contribution envelopes can still be used for additional donations, whether for Unified Budget, Reserved Accounts, Memorials, etc. One tax receipt will be issued by Holy Cross at the end of the year for the sum of all contributions.

The program is administered by FaithLife Financial. There is no cost to members as Holy Cross will pay the \$0.50 per withdrawal administration fee. The program is managed by the Financial Secretary.

The monthly deadline for Holy Cross members' additions, changes, or removals from the program is the first Sunday of each month.

For those interested, an individual information and sign-up sheet is available in the Welcome Centre. Attached to each sheet is an envelope addressed "Financial Secretary – Confidential". You may complete the sheet, put it in the envelope, and deposit the envelope on the Sunday Offering Plates.

If you have any questions which are not addressed on the sign-up sheet please contact Lorraine Cress at 519-747-2783.

Lorraine Cress,

Financial Secretary.