

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Saturday, March 9, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, March 10, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: God so loved the world,  
**People: that He gave His only Son,**

Pastor: that whoever believes in Him should not perish  
**People: but have eternal life.**

Pastor: Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,  
People: **and then to the resurrection and eternal life.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ's love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,  
People: **we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. 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.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.**

## Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, You have loved us with an everlasting love that grants us eternal life. Burn Your love ever stronger within our hearts, Lord, so that we may love others as You have loved us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee  
O thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give me weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing,  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

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

<sup>4</sup>They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup>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!”

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## The Epistle Reading

## Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

<sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## **Holy Gospel**

**John 3:14-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> 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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Sermon Hymn      God Loved the World so that He Gave      LSB 571:1-5**

God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

**Sermon  
Offering**

**Coming Clean**

**John 3:14-21**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**Pastor:**      Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions,  
we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts  
be burning  
**People:**      **with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**People: with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**People: with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief. Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**People: with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**People: with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**People: with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**People: with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**



## **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**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

**P: 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."**

## **Pax Domini**

*pg 180*

**P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*pg 180*

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**Handbells O Sacred Head Now Wounded arr. By Lloyd Larson**

There is a Redeemer—  
Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

**ref** Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving 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. **Refrain**

When I stand in glory,  
I will see His face;  
There I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place. **Refrain**

## Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal where we receive Your genuine love. Keep us firm in faith and increase our love of You and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.**

## **Closing Hymn**

## **Amazing Grace**

**LSB 744**

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe so far, His grace will see me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.