

## Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 10, 2024

### Divine Service Setting Four *LSB pg. 203*

## Confession and Absolution

### 837 Lift High the Cross

*LSB 837*

- ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.
- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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#### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** 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.

#### *Kneel/Stand*

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

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**G Amen.**

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Ps. 27:3–5; antiphon: Ps. 27:1*

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 up- | on a rock.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,**

**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?

### Pew Edition

### Kyrie

*LSB 204*

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G And also with you.**

**P** 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.

**G Amen.**

*Sit*

### 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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** 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— <sup>3</sup>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—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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Gradual

*Heb. 12:2*

O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## Holy Gospel

*John 3:14–21*

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

**G** 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>[Jesus said:] “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.”

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

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

## Nicene Creed

*LSB 206*

**G** 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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

## 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

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## Sermon

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

*Sit*

## Offering

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

*LSB 208*

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

*LSB 208*

**C** **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.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 209*

**C** **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  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** 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  $\text{✠}$  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

LSB 209

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

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

- C** 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.

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.

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.  
**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.  
**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.  
**C** Amen.

## 566 By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566

- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise?  
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain:  
By grace you too will life obtain.
- 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;  
Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer,  
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone,  
And we are saved by grace alone.

3 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,  
Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit  
That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone,  
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;  
As long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration,  
What in His Word our God commands,  
Our faith in what our God has done  
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,  
In tribulation's furnace tried,  
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,  
The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure  
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;  
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart's condition,  
I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown  
Since I am saved by grace alone.

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### 631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

LSB 631

1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;  
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;  
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong  
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need  
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;  
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:  
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;  
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;  
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;  
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7        Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
          Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
          Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
          The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 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.

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

**A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

LSB 917

1        Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
          With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
          Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
          Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

2        Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
          With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.  
          Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
          That in this house have called upon Thy name.



3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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### *In Our Prayers*

#### Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett	Theresa Clark	Anita Reinertsen
Mitch Jacobs	Bob Donley	Deb Lescallett	Ethan Meeker
Rodney Koch	Rebecca Smith	Mason Carlson	Julie & Steve Brandt
Brenda Christensen	Janalee Gutierrez	Jim Lipe	

Lucille, Deb Thompson's mom	Dave, Mitch Jacobs dad
Aiden Meeker, grandson Mark & Shari	Gabe's nephew
Fred Concepcion, Nelly Clark's father	Kathy, in a coma, Rose's cousin
Sharon, Pastor's friend	Greg, Debbie Hughes fiancée

#### Others:

Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission  
Pastor Omolo and Hope for the Destitute  
Our Armed Forces: Sgt Kaleb Karssen

## Stewardship Corner

**TIME- ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK** Worship Services 90

**TREASURE** Gifts received for budget: Mar 3, 2024 \$ 2,543.00 (Envelope/plate)

\*\* Monthly amount needed for operating budget: \$18,550- for March that is \$3,710 weekly in giving.

\*\* Currently our Building Renovation Fund has \$79,150.36

## Announcements

*To the best of our ability, all Worship Services and Bible Studies will be recorded and placed online on our Facebook page, our You-tube page and on our website.*

**Please note! In an effort to preserve our sanctuary carpet, please do not hand your individual communion cups to a child** for placement in the plate after communion. We do not want any wine spilled on the carpet. Thanks for your help in keeping God's house clean.

**Life Quote for March 10** "With gentleness and respect, we witness to our faith in Jesus so that others will come to believe in Him and eagerly await His return. All who confess Jesus as Lord look forward to His Second Coming with a joy far greater than idle mirth. We are encouraged as we remind each other that our Savior is coming back, and we pray that He would 'hear and grant our fervent plea.' Come, Lord Jesus!" *Dr. Carol Geisler*

Pastor's **Tuesday morning Bible Study will NOT MEET** until after Easter. (taking the month of March off). Have any suggestions on what to study next? Let Pastor know!

**Knife & Scissor sharpening.** If you have knives and scissors that need sharpened, Bob Donley would like to assist. Please drop off any cutlery that needs sharpening to the church office and Leah will make sure your items are labeled and secured. The plan is to return any items the following Sunday (after received), nicely sharpened. Mr. Donley is doing this as a free-will donation fundraiser for the Building Renovation Fund.

**IF YOU HAVE A KEY(S) TO THE CHURCH BUILDING** please talk to Leah and let her know your key numbers. We are trying to update our list. Thanks.

**IL Voters Guides are available** on the entryway table. These guides allow you to see how candidates have voted on certain issues— pick one up for you and one for a friend! If you need to register to vote go online with the IL State Board of Elections: visit [ova.elections.il.gov](http://ova.elections.il.gov) or visit your county elections office.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** need to be designated by March 31st if you have them! You can call Thrivent or Jennifer DeWolfe if you need assistance!

**Board of Education Committee** will meet Sunday, March 24th after the service for a brief meeting.

**Building Committee** will meet today after the service.

**Easter Egg donations**— Please return the filled eggs into the yellow bucket by Good Friday of Holy Week. The youth will again host an easter egg hunt between service on Easter morning.

**Choir will sing on Maundy Thursday and Easter.** We would LOVE to have you join us! We will practice on Wednesday evenings from 5:20pm-5:45pm. (Please eat supper right at 5pm!) We will also catch a couple Sundays after church to practice!

**Knox County Right to Life** will meet at Mt Calvary for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 12th at 6pm.

**Our Lent services continue on Wednesdays** with dinner at 5pm and a service at 6pm service. Please join us for our Lenten series: “God on Trial”.

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God— and his people— are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model— and our motivation— in Jesus.

This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before humankind in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

March 13th: Truth, Rev. Hagen

March 20th: Misconceptions, Rev. Umbarger

Palm Sunday, March 24th

Maundy Thursday, March 28th: Respite

Good Friday March 29th: Evidence

Easter Sunday March 31st: Vindication

*Our Wednesday Worship Services will begin at 6pm, with dinner at 5pm.*

### **Learn by Heart: Week of March 10, 2024**

*Which are these?* Consider your place in life according to the 10 commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything or done any harm?

### **Sunday School Memory Verse:**

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57