



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

### Prelude

**Song:** It is You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER & OFFERING OF CONFESSION

P: O God of Comfort and God of Challenge, we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did, full of complaints and dissatisfaction. Nothing is enough; we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**C: Forgive us when we become so comfortable that we moan and groan our dissatisfaction with your freedom.**

P: In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites, to consider the bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

**C: Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us; keep sending loving and compassionate leaders to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world. In all this may we see you, be healed, and live.**

GIFT OF ABSOLUTION

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus was given to die for us and forgive us all our 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. Look upon our faithful and loving God, and move in His ways.

**C: Amen**

COLLECT

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning, 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.

**C: Amen.**

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

P: We greet one another in the peace of the Lord.

*You are welcome to greet each other as forgiven brothers and sisters in Jesus, in your homes and in our chat, or send a text to someone you know sharing the peace of Jesus is for them.*

#### READINGS

A Reading from 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.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Ephesians 2:1–10

2 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.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A: The Holy Gospel according St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**Hymn:** God Loved the World So That He Gave

Lutheran Service Book 571

## SERMON

P: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**C: 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 there 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.**

**Song:** Open The Eyes Of My Heart

## PRAYERS

A: Lord in Your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: In the light of Jesus, we pray,

**ALL: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Thompson

Music: Gundermann Family, Bruce Anderson, Jim Radtke and John Schonebaum

Lector: Todd Mohrland

Production: Dan Savard

Music | Liturgy:

Hymns from *Lutheran Service Book*

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“Open The Eyes Of My Heart” CCLI Song # 2298355 Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

“Confession” Ginny Brown Daniel, modified

“Even When” Poem by Jan Richardson

<http://paintedprayerbook.com/2012/03/13/day-20-even-when-we-were-dead/>