

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9 & 10, 2024

### INTRODUCTION

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P We remember our baptism,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.  
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just  
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

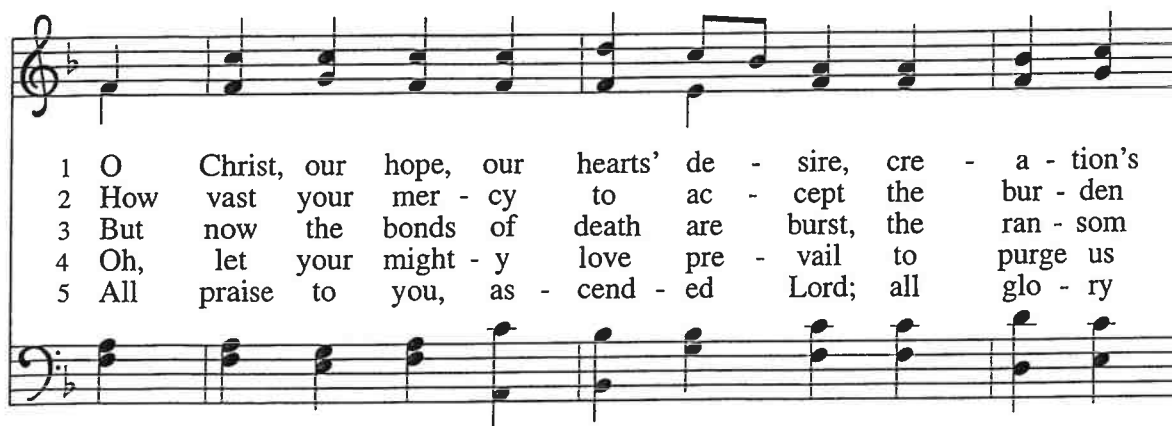
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

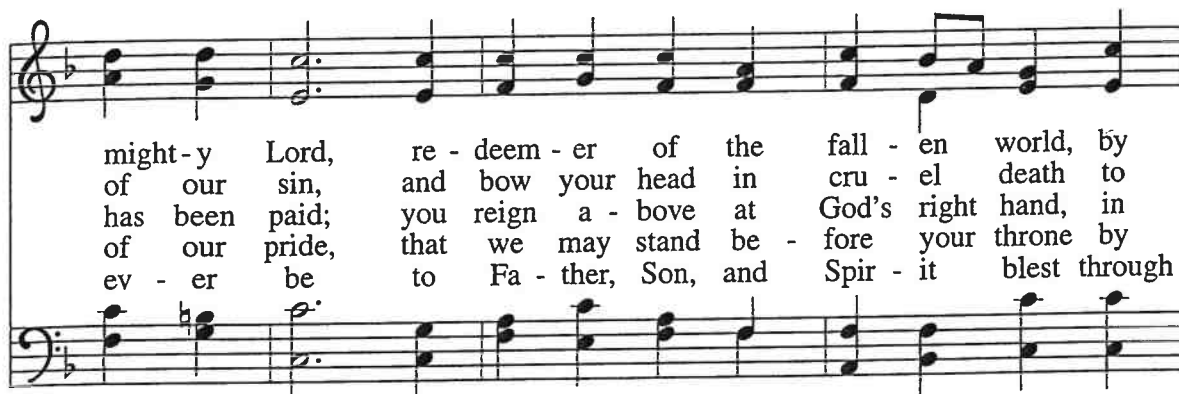
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us  
and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,  
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

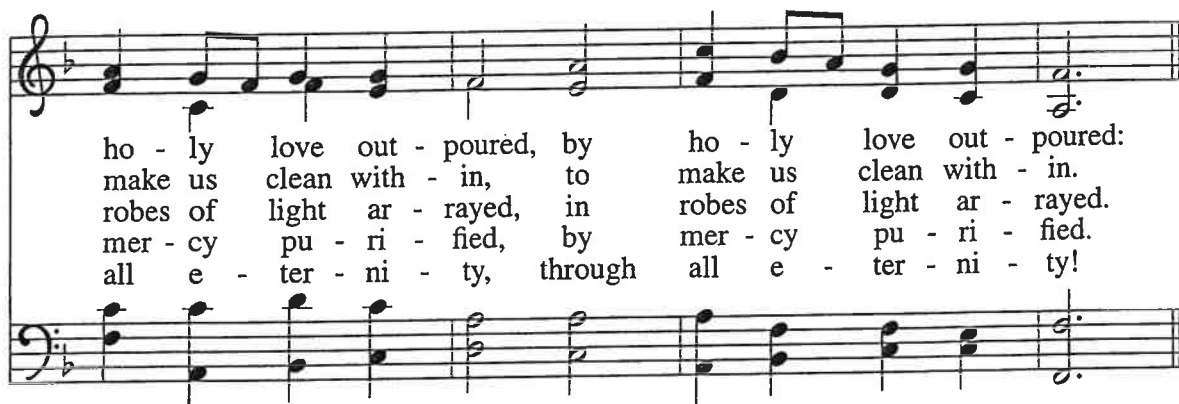
C **Amen.**



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.  
 Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN  
 86866

**\* GREETING**

**P** Christ has called us to this place,  
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

**C** **We are followers of Christ  
who seek to hear the Word,  
live the Word,  
and share the Word.**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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

**\* KYRIE**

*Assistant: In peace, in peace,*

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*  
Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all... (Refrain)*

*Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)*

*Congregation:*  
Help. save and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men.

**\* SALUTATION**

*Presider:* *Congregation:*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Chancel Choir

8:30 Leah Wilson

11:00 Praise Choir

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>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 detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)*

- <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
- <sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- <sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- <sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.
- <sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**
- <sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.
- <sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- <sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

### \* GOSPEL VERSE

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

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

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

### GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>"Just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
 C Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Sharon

HYMN OF THE DAY

"For by Grace You Have Been Saved"

ELW #598



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your  
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my  
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have  
 own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my  
 self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is  
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is  
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.  
 God's great gift." A - men.  
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper  
 Music: Kari Tikka  
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ARMOLAULU  
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**\* THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of

saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the

life everlasting.

Amen

**THE OFFERING**



**\* THE OFFERTORY**

**“We Give Thee but Thine Own” (vv. 1-2 only)**

**ELW #686**

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.  
Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

HEATH  
SM

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P** Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

**P** Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**P** Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

**\* THE 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**

**\* BLESSING**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you peace.

**C** **Amen**



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

**\* DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**