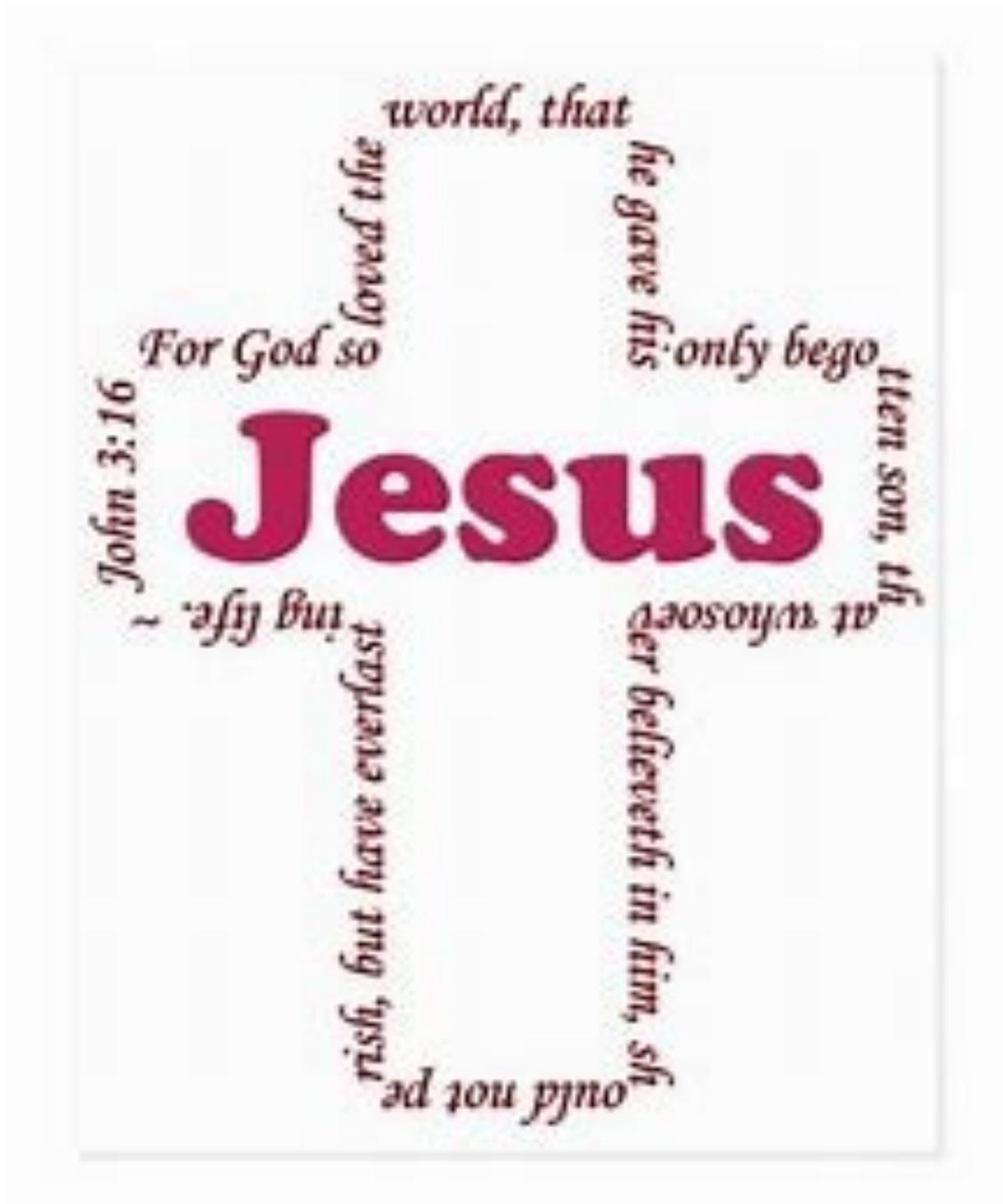


St. John 3:16



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Lift High the Cross* (ELW) No. 660

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive 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: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW) NO. 742

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 107:1-9

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endures forever.

**²Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that He redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

³He gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**⁴Some wandered in desert wastes;
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.**

⁵They were hungry and thirsty;
their spirits languished within them.

**⁶Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.**

⁷He put their feet on a straight path
to go to a city where they might dwell.

**⁸Let them give thanks to the Lord for His mercy
and the wonders He does for His children.**

⁹For He satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Lenten Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

* The Gospel

John 3:14-21

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Seminarian, Justin Baker

*The Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

(ELW) No. 779

*The 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting.
Amen.**

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(ELW) No. 188

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Beautiful Savior

(ELW) No. 838

*FLC Sending Hymn

Be The Love of Christ

arr. Michael Showalter

Roger Thornhill

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff features a quarter note D5, followed by quarter notes C5, B-flat4, and A4. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The treble staff features a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes F4, E-flat4, and D4. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The treble staff features a quarter note C4, followed by quarter notes B-flat3, A3, and G3. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The treble staff features a quarter note F3, followed by quarter notes E3, D3, and C3. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

Beautiful Savior

838

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in the flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

First Lutheran Church

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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Bobbi Heastings

barbara_heastings@comast.net

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in memory of those that have died during the Covid 19 pandemic and those who remain strong in the faith throughout this past year in our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. A donation made to the church.

The Lay Reader is George Salvucci.

Counters/Greeters today are H. Quedenfeld and L. Coleman.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Bell Choir Practice on Sunday from 1-2 & Thursday from 7-8 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2021 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2021. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2021. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.
Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Leah, Shari Kienzle, Joanne Reck, Chiquita, Patricia Zablotny, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Tillie Shawin, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, little Karson, Pastor Bruce and Marie Kreutzer, Melissa McCabe, baby Isaac Christian, Barbara Mounts, Sandy Hebrank, Rachel Rogers, Lynn Hudak, Sonie Rea, Allan Zimmerman, Donna O., the Pollana family, Iva Romano, Frank Kubichar, Ashley McCartney, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, David & Theresa Lacko, Linda Lacko, Kevin Ryan, Diane & Megan, Patty, Loretta & Paul, Alice & Delores, Deb & Norma Price, Cpt. Allen, Aaron Rogers, Owen Miller, Cameron, Kathryn Rush, Dominic & Pam Thorp, Marty Mowl, Amy Buel, Bob Cable, Maxine Banko, and Rena.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 14, 2021

“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.’”- Numbers 21:8

How many of you like snakes? I know some people who have them as pets, and some people who are terrified of them. Yet in our scriptures, snakes are a symbol of evil from Genesis through Revelation. It was the snake who tempted Eve in Eden, and in Revelation, Satan is called the “serpent.”

In Numbers, it says God sent serpents into the camp of his people, Israel. When you look at what preceded this terrible event, it's not hard to understand why. The Israelites were traveling toward the land God has promised them. The journey is difficult, and they are beset by lack of food, polluted water holes, epidemic diseases, and dissention within their ranks, and so they begin to grumble. Mind you, it hasn't been that long since they crossed the Red Sea – hardly time to forget what God could do with water.

They grumble and complain that they had it better back in Egypt. How quickly they forget the slavery, the forced labor, the beatings when the hot sun forced them to slow the pace of their work. God has fed them, given them water, and even speaks to them through Moses from the mountain. And they make all kinds of promises and seal it with blood. Then, just as soon as Moses is out of sight, they forget about all that God has done for them. They get drunk, make an idol and worship it while partying all night.

Sometimes things need to get worse before they get better. Sometimes it takes a crisis to help us understand that life with God is not about getting what we want but wanting what we've got. They forgot that God freed them from captivity, saved them from Pharaoh's soldiers, brought them victory in battle, and gave them just laws to live by. He fed and watered them daily, protected them and led them by cloud and pillar of fire. But now God sends them serpents because they refuse to be a people of praise.

Fact is, many of us are snake-bitten for the same reasons. We've forgotten how to be a people of praise. This story from Numbers reminds us to look up and live. To look up with adoration to a God who is faithful in all his promises. To look up in confession, repenting of our ungrateful ways, and to look up in thanksgiving for all the blessings we take for granted. Amen.