



# Fourth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 10, 2024

WELCOME TO ZION

**PRELUDE** — *Jill Sousek*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

*The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God who writes the law on our hearts, and who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should  
speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**HYMN #335** — *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

**GREETING**

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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. Amen.**

# WORD

## FIRST READING — *Numbers 21:4-9*

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. 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.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 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. 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.” 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.

## SECOND READING — *Ephesians 2:1-10*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins 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. 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel, according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL — *John 3:14-21*

[*Jesus said:*] “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“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.

“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. Those 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. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDRENS' MESSAGE**

**THE SERMON** — *Pastor Scott Ludford*

**HYMN #660** — *Lift High the Cross*

**BAPTISM** — *Amelia Lee Hass* [10:30 AM ~ SEE INSERT]

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

**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 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.**

**PRAYERS** ... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*The petitions conclude...* through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE** *Share God's peace. We'll forgo hand shaking due to cold/flu season.*

## **THE OFFERING**

# COMMUNION

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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.

### DISTRIBUTION MUSIC — *Jill Sousek*

## BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, at this table, we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

# SENDING

## BENEDICTION

### HYMN #666 — *What Wondrous Love Is This*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God!



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