



Sunday, March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Worship and Announcements

Prelude

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Congregation: Amen.

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Fountain of living water,

C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW 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.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Public Domain

***Greeting:**

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.**

*Please stand as you are able.

***Prayer of the Day:**

All 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.

Kidsword: Pastor Jerry O'Neal

Our first reading is from 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.

⁴From 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. ⁵The 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." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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. ⁸And 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." ⁹So 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.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22: (Read responsively between Lector and **Congregation**.)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

Our Second reading is from 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.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in 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. ³All 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. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

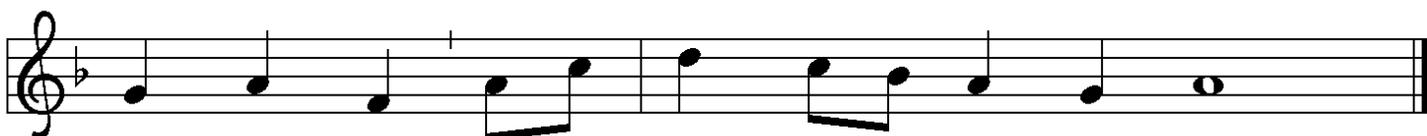
*Gospel Acclamation (setting 3)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*Please stand as you are able.

***Gospel Reading: 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.

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: – Pastor Jerry O’Neal

***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: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka
 Text and music © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

***Apostles' Creed:**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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:** (Congregation's response in bold type.)

L For our prayers today, I will conclude each petition with "Hear us, O God" and your response is, "Your mercy is great.."

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, especially those we now name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter, especially, Open Hands Feeding Ministry and Project Stepping Stone. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

*Please stand as you are able.

In this season of Lent, open our hearts to your cleansing and our minds to your Word. Bless our mid-week Lenten studies and help us to share your Word with those around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Sharing the Peace:**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering:

If you would like to give electronically, you may

1. Download the ELCA Giving App from Google Store or Apple Play, or
2. Go to our website www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com and click on the green "Give" button.
3. Using your bank's online BillPay features.

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity and our ministries!

Offering Music: "Now the Silence" arr. by John Carter

***Offering Prayer:**

L Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

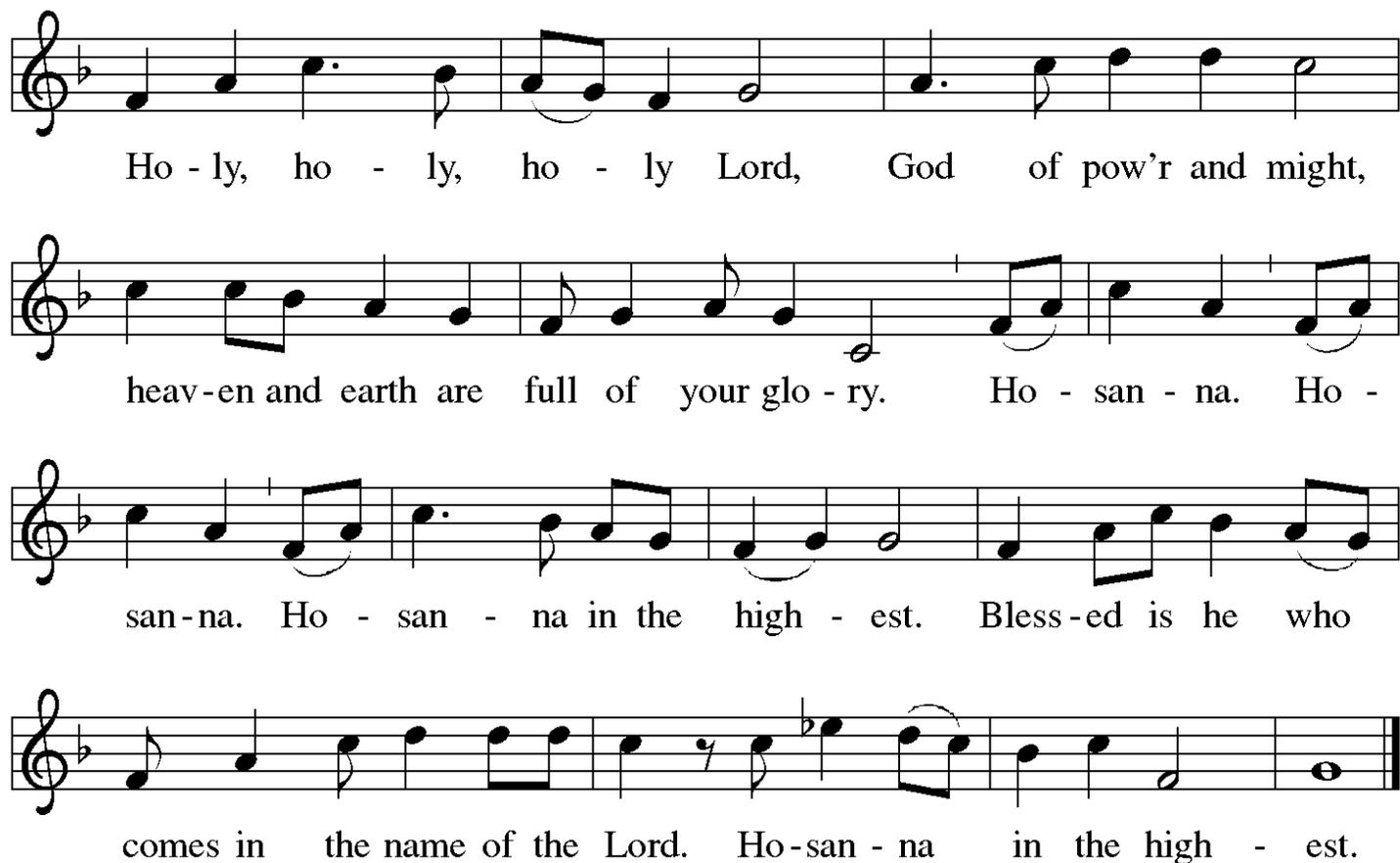
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P Covenanting God...

...singing the hymn of your unending praise.

(setting 3)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P Righteous God...

...Great is the mystery of faith.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Merciful Father...

...Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer:**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. (Lord's Prayer)

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

Communion Hymn "Lamb of God" (setting 3)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please stand as you are able.

Distribution:

This is the Table of Grace for all who belong to Christ and seek his gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. We extend to you all that we have in the Lord Jesus and invite you to his Holy Supper. Those communing with us who haven't been baptized and desire God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation in Holy Baptism are invited to talk to the Pastor. We invite you to come forward, receive the bread in your hand, and take a cup from the tray and take them back to your seat. After all have been served, we will consume Communion together. White grape juice is offered as an alternative to wine and are in the cups in the center of the tray.

***Post Communion Blessing**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
All **Amen.**

***Post Communion Prayer**

L God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

***Sending Call and Response:**

L God's work!

C **Our hands!**

L God's love!

C **Our hearts!**

L God's story!

C **Our voices!**

***Benediction:**

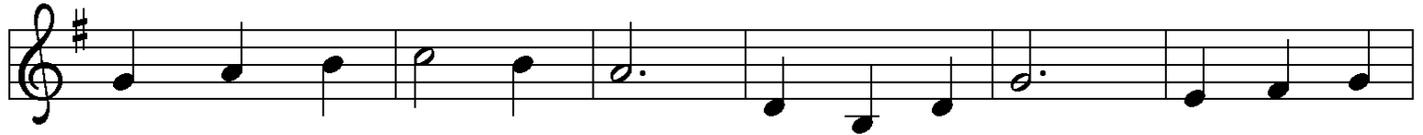
P "Barocha" - Michael Card

C **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn: "Drawn to the Light" ELW 593**



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

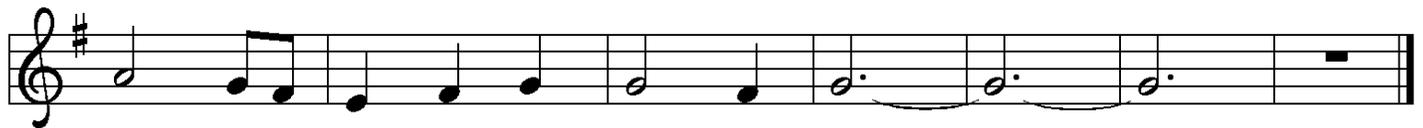
Refrain



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

One License: A-727907

***Dismissal:**

L Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.

Announcements for March 14, 2021

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of March 14 - 20:

Birthdays:

March 14 – Betty Haffner

March 14 – Erma Unger

March 16 – Bob Baker

March 20 – Clela Saxman

Anniversaries:

No anniversaries on record.

This week's Prayers: Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Pinckney and family

Robert Dominick

Mary Broughton

Sue Donnellan

Kent Windmiller, Karen Wenger's brother

Rachel Wagner, Nancy Wagner's daughter

Denise Amschler

Those who are infected with the COVID-19 Coronavirus and the frontline workers who are caring for them.

Walking Group

The HTLC walking group will continue to walk at the Muncie Mall at 10 AM on Tuesday mornings. The entrance is just past the Books A Million entrance.

Coat racks, restrooms, signs regarding distancing, hand sanitizer is available. Masks must be worn. Come join us. Linda Hamilton, Parish Nurse

A Reminder to Thrivent Members:

Please remember to direct your 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31 by logging in at Thrivent.com. Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, Holy Trinity has received \$1,529 Choice Dollars @ grant funds since January 1, 2020 and Project Stepping Stone has received \$624.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Walker (765) 212- 2307. Thank you.

Updated [03/04/2021] Vaccination News:

Recent news from the Indiana State Department of Health has opened up the availability by appointment only for Indiana residents age **50 and older** to receive a COVID 19 vaccination.

You may schedule your appointment by going online at **ourshot.in.gov** or by calling **211**

Volunteers Needed:

We need volunteers to work in the Christian Ministries Food Pantry on Wednesday, March 31 (Need 1 more); Thursday, April 1 (Need 2); and Friday, April 2 (Need 2) from 9:00am to 12 Noon. We need 2 people per day. If you can help with this, please contact the church office.

Mid-Week Lenten Book Study:

We continue our Mid-Week Lenten Book Study, via Zoom, on Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00pm. We will be joining Lutheran Church of the Cross, Grace Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and Riverside United Methodist Church, in this Lenten Zoom Study.

****This week, March 17th, we will be discussing the Chapter Four.****

Here is the Zoom link information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224448890?pwd=R2E3d3EwWWwwYW5TaS9WbDU1V085Zz09>

Meeting ID: 822 2444 8890

Passcode: 225469

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

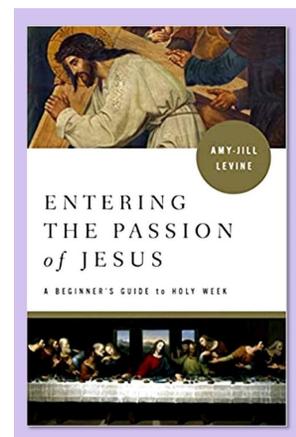
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 822 2444 8890

Passcode: 225469

On Thursday, April 8th at 7:00pm via Zoom, we will be having a virtual Q&A with the author of *Entering The Passion of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine.

We pray that the Lord provide you during Lent "the opportunity to think about your life alongside the life of Jesus, inviting inward transformation and then outward action." (excerpt from *Entering The Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine pp.13)



Holy Week Schedule 2021:

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 28 at 10:00am via Facebook Live.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00pm at High Street United Methodist Church (UMC), 219 S. High St, Muncie. This will be an in-person service. Masks and social distancing required.

Good Friday, April 2 at 7:00pm via Facebook Live. This will be a joint service with High Street UMC.

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/HTLCMuncie/>

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 7:00am with an in-person, outdoor service. Masks and social distancing required.

Easter Sunday Service at 10:00am via Facebook Live only (no in-person service)

*Please stand as you are able.