

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024
10:30 AM



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES John 3:16

P God so loved the world,
C that He gave His only Son,

P that whoever believes in Him should not perish
C but have eternal life.

P Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,
C and then to the resurrection and eternal life.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ's love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace.

Silence for reflection

P Heavenly Father,
C we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.

P Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. 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.

C Amen. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.

Stand

GREETING OF PEACE

Introduce yourself to those around you, greeting them with the greeting of peace.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall

now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.

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.**

KYRIE

[C] Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted during Lent.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. [C] **And also with you.**

[P] Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have loved us with an everlasting love that grants us eternal life. Burn Your love ever stronger within our hearts, Lord, so that we may love others as You have loved us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children’s Lesson.

FIRST READING Numbers 21:4-9

Throughout the Hebrew scriptures, the time of Israel's wandering in the desert is seen as a period of testing. Though God delivers the people from slavery and provides for all their needs on the journey, they whine and grumble. They fail to see the gift of salvation in the exodus. Yet God's anger is not the final word. God continues to lead the people toward the land promised to their ancestors.

[R] 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:1-10

God raised us up to new life while we yet belonged to powers of evil. If such was our past, we now live with Christ and will spend eternity discovering the breadth of God's goodness.

R You 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 5when 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

C Lenten Verse



C 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.

HOLY GOSPEL The Gospel is written in **John**, chapter 3 beginning at verse 14.

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

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 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 thence 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.**

Sit

MESSAGE

HYMN “God Loved The World”

1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all

Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by

Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

ST. CRISPIN
L M

Text and music: Public domain

John 3:16; Titus 3:4–7; 2 Tim. 1:9; Matt. 9:2

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[P] Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Stand

OFFERTORY SONG



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

PREFACE



The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

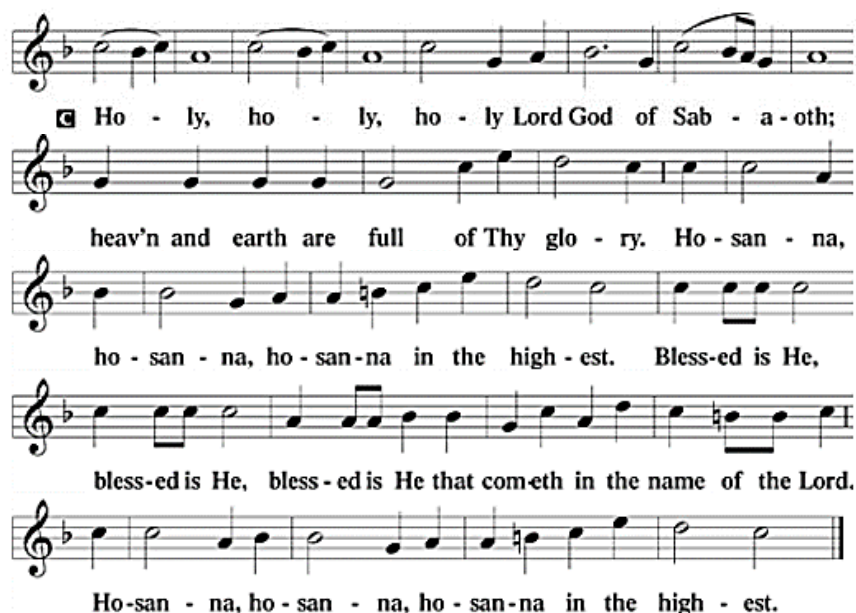
G We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

G It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who so loved the world that He was lifted upon the tree of the cross in order to draw all people to Himself. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[P] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

[P] In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

[P] As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

[C] Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

[P] O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

☐ 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.

LAMB OF GOD

☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You may approach the altar as space is available to receive pre-packaged communion elements or from the common loaf, along with an cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

HYMN

"There Is a Redeemer"



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
 Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
 There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.



Refrain



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.



Text: Melody Green, b. 1946
 Music: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

THERE IS A REDEEMER
 Irregular meter

Text and music: © 1982 Birdwing Music; admin. EMI

John 3:16

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace. **C** Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- [P] Let us pray.
- [P] We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal where we receive Your genuine love. Keep us firm in faith and increase our love of You and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever **C Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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

C Amen.

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN **“Lift High the Cross”**

Refrain
Unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Harmony

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap-tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,
3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied tree,
4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com-bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
 Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.

Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.;
 Spanish tr. Leopoldo Gros, b. 1925

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text (English) and music: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Text (Spanish): © 1997 Hope Publishing Co.

CRUCIFER
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John 12:32; Heb. 13:12–15; Is. 11:10, 12; Matt. 16:24

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
