

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

March 14, 2021

10:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *There Is a Balm in Gilead* African American spiritual, arr. Bill Ingram
prerecorded by handbell quartet: Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola, Karen Sande, Sarah Climis

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

KYRIE

Assisting Minister

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assisting Minister

Petition..... let us pray.

For peace between nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the healing of creation, let us pray: **Kyrie . . .**
 For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and all who long for God, let us pray: **Kyrie . . .**
 For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, abandoned or afraid, let us pray: **Kyrie . . .**

Assisting Minister

Help, save, com-fort and de - fend us, O

All

God. A -

<i>To the Prayer of the Day</i>	<i>To the Evening Hymn of Praise</i>
men.	men.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #757 *All My Hope on God is Founded*



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

APOSTOLIC 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 death of your Son on the cross, 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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

FIRST READING *Numbers 21:4-9*

read by Stephanie Lundorff

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.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING *Ephesians 2:1-10*

read by Jim Lundorff

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.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL *John 3:14-21*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

HYMN OF THE DAY #598 *For By Grace You Have Been Saved*



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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Boundless God, remind us:

WE ARE Created by an ever-present, loving God,
Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus
Equipped to be resilient amidst change,
Grounded in community,
Free to struggle, grow and expand,
Compelled to reach out in response,
Renewed in hope each day.

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us,
that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *My Song in the Night* Southern folk hymn, arr. Paul Christiansen
Soli Deo Gloria Virtual Choir

*O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night.*

*O why should I wander an alien from Thee,
Or cry in the desert Thy face to see.
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight.
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God's time is fulfilled and the reign of God has come near.
We are humbled by your generosity, we seek to respond by walking in your ways.
Receive these offerings that they may be used
to glorify you and serve those in need. Through Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

We return to the wilderness of Lent still thirsting to be together, still hungry for communion. Longing to return to this table, we remember that when the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they cried out to God and God sent manna. We know that in times of crisis, God feeds hungry people. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. This is bread for the journey. Before you eat it, think of the ways that God has fed you and the community over this last week. Think of how God has shown up in your life and in the lives of others. Take a moment to thank God for nourishing you. As you eat the bread, pray for those who don't have enough to eat, that God would feed them too and that we might be part of the way God answers those prayers.

MUSIC FROM TAIZE *In God Alone*

Mon â - me se re - po - se_en paix sur Dieu seul: de
In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in

lui vient mon sa - lut. Oui, sur Dieu seul mon
God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my

â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se_en paix.
soul can find its rest, . . . find its rest and peace.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we journey with Jesus to the cross, we pray:

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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #339 *Christ, the Life of All the Living*



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - ered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; created for beloved community of God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Christ, the Life of All the Living* German chorale *Jesu, meines Lebens Leben*
setting by Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church

PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike

PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

MUSICIANS Beth Storaasli, Erna Peterson, Glenn Peterson, Mark Knutson, and Michael Fuchs,
singers; Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola, Karen Sande, Sarah Climis,
handbells; Soli Deo Gloria Virtual Choir

VIDEO TEAM Shania Krause, David Sproat, Dale Stahl, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. *Kyrie* from *Unfailing Light*, text Susan Briehl, music Marty Haugen ©2004, G.I.A. pub. From worship supplement *All Creation Sings In God Alone* ©1991 Jacques Berthier, Ateliers et Presses de Taize, admin. G.I.A. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428. CCS WorshipCast streaming License #13132.



Please join us for upcoming Wednesday services, livestreamed at 6:00 p.m., followed by zoom conversation "Acting Against Racism" at 6:30 p.m.:

- Wed, Feb. 24 ~ In Community with Creation (Reflection from the Rova family)
- Wed, March 3 ~ In Community with all the Saints (Colleen Birt)
- Wed, March 10 ~ In Community with our Neighbor (Denise Scheer)
- Wed, March 17 ~ In Community with those on the Margins (Cindy Monroe)
- Wed, March 24 ~ In Community with Christ (Brian Peterson & Paul Anderson)

FLC Community Conversations on Racism and Justice - Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Immediately following each service at 6:30 pm will be an FLC community discussion via zoom, using the articles & conversation guide *Acting Against Racism* published by Christian Century. Please join in this important conversation as we learn and grow together!

The Zoom discussion group begins following the services at 6:30 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88382398856?pwd=SkE4RkFJa1FPQ1lrVUtlRXJPdlkxZz09>

Link to the *Acting Against Racism* document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrYOqNXABKJFrvnNJ-rZljjr5mKEwwBl/view?usp=sharing>

Article Reading & Discussion schedule

- Feb 17 - "Becoming less defensive about White privilege"
- Feb. 24 - "James Baldwin reminds us not to be surprised by this"
- March 3 - "I believe racism is wrong. So what?"
- March 10 - "How do we know Black lives matter to God?"
- March 17 - "Why are so many White Americans standing up for racial justice?"
- March 24 - "Wearing down structural evil with the ministry of erosion"

*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.*

Order Lilies or Tulips for Easter

Help beautify the sanctuary with Lilies or Tulips for the Easter Season.

If you are interested, please fill out this form and attach a check (made out to FLC). Please note that we have a limited number of plants available due to COVID-19.

Return to church office by Mon., March 29th.

Name _____ Phone # _____

of Lilies _____ at \$13 each = \$ _____

of Tulips _____ at \$18 each = \$ _____

Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):



First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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