



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

JOHN 3:16, NIV

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
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

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross RED ELW #335

- 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

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.

KYRIE—Have mercy on us, Lord

RED ELW page 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**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

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

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

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.

SECOND READING: 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
Help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus**

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John.

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.

[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 ON THE STEPS

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound RED ELW #779

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 OF INTERCESSION

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

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

We Are an Offering RED ELW #692

We lift our voices, We lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You:
We are an offering.
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives they are Yours:
We are an offering.
All that we have, All that we are,
All that we hope to be,
We give to You, We give to You
We lift our voices, We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You:
We are an offering
We are an offering

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

RED ELW page 144

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION

(Zion practices an open table. God welcomes everyone to come forward. Young children may receive bread and a blessing. If you prefer not to receive, fold your hands and receive a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please ask your servers. Come to the Lord's table and share in the feast!)

LAMB OF GOD

RED ELW page 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION 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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Beloved,

we are God's own people,

holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,

shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage,

and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross RED ELW #660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 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
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.



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4/15/2023 for ELW hymns

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Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Unscheduled—Interruptible Hours for the week of March 10

Tuesday, March 12—12p-4p

Thursday, March 14—12p—5p

Or by appointment

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Arlington, MN 55307
Church: 507-964-5454

Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Christy Hebeisen, Lowell Tritabaugh, Jenna Dobner, Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier, Cindy Hebeisen, Mark Zeiher and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Meet Pastor Gretchen—Sign up for time to meet with Pastor Gretchen on the bulletin board or set up a time that works on your schedule. I am eager to get to know all of you!

Clean Up Sunday and Potluck—March 10, 2024. Come to church in your cleaning work clothes. Now with the construction complete, an indoor church cleaning day has been set following service. Also, bring a favorite dish for potluck lunch after the hard work is done. For those not able to help with the work, please bring a dish for potluck and join in fellowship. We will plan to eat at noon.

Reminder—The Tuesday Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00am.

A Blessing and Dedication of the Kitchenette will be on Sunday, March 17. The new kitchenette was possible thanks to the generous memorial gift given by the Tews family in memory of Bea.

Coffee time following the service will include some of Bea's favorite desserts. Please join us!

Bible Study—Reaching out for Interest in a Bible Study...

Are you interested in joining an evening bible study group? Are you willing to lead a bible study group? How often would you like to meet? Which kind of topics would you be interested in? If you are interested in leading or being part of an evening bible study, please reach out to any Board of Education member Sheri Kumar, Cindy Vasquez or Tina Schauer.

Feed My Starving Children - Chanhassen

If you and your friends would like to spend a Saturday afternoon in April putting together meals for children around the world, please contact Jane Scharpe or sign up on the Let There Be Light on the bulletin board in the narthex. Anyone 5 years & older can do it. What a great time for fellowship and sharing our time & talents. We need to reserve spaces so please respond ASAP. Possible dates for the 2:30-4:15 spots: April 6 or April 20.



If you have not yet made your donation, not to worry, you still have time! Now through April 6, your donation is multiplied by the Food Fund!

Did you know??

7,551,147 Minnesotans were served at food shelves in 2023? This was up from 5,505,100 in 2022.

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

Facebook at
Zion Lutheran Church

YouTube at
www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN
www.zionarlington.org

Worship Assistants

March 10

Ushers: Allen & Pam Wendlandt
Dale & Laurie Stern
Greeters: Jon & Jacque Hazelwood
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
Reader: Mausten Krueger
Organist: Bobette Schauer
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe &
Starla Schilling
Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

March 17

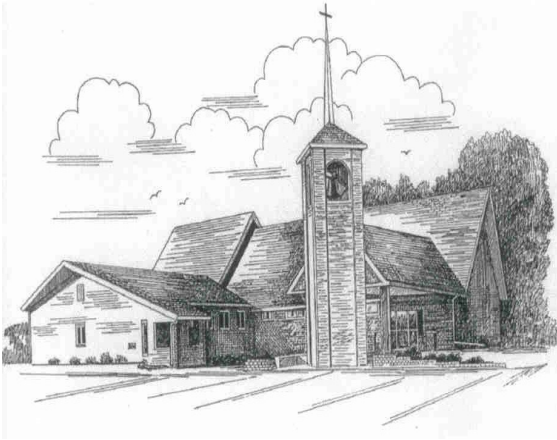
Ushers: Nancy Mathwig, Larry Klunder
Mark & Lisa Strobel
Greeters: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
Acolyte: Grant Schauer
Reader: Nancy Mathwig
Organist: Bobette Schauer
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

March 13—Wednesday

Ushers: Wayne & Ann Werner
Greeters: Peg Kamps
Acolyte: Murdock Krueger
Reader: Cindy Quast
Organist: Bobette Schauer
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA are meeting for their Spring Gathering at Grace Lutheran Church in Brownton, Minnesota on Saturday, April, 13. Registration will be at 11:30 with lunch at 12:00. Registration cost remains the same at \$12.00. {The speaker this year will be Kim Dickey, from Global Health Ministries. This is the place that takes rolled bandages, along with many other health kits and items. Their work is so valuable to under-supplied nations.} One half of the offering will go to Global Health Ministries.

Zion Lutheran Church ELCA



This Week at Zion:

Sunday, March 10	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion—Live-stream, in-person
	10:00a	Sunday School
	10:00a	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00a	Indoor Clean-Up
	12:00p	Potluck
	1-3:00p	Maranatha Church
Tuesday, March 12	10:00a	Tuesday Bible Study
Wednesday, March 13	4-6:15p	Confirmation Class
	5:30p	Lenten Supper
	6:30p	Lenten Worship—Pr. Scott/St. Paul's, Gaylord
Thursday, March 14	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
	5:30p	Board of Stewardship
	6-8p	Maranatha Church
Sunday, March 17	9:00a	Worship—Live-stream, in-person
	10:00a	Sunday School
	10:00a	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00a	Sunday Bible Study
	1-3:00p	Maranatha Church