

FOURTH SUNDAY



IN LENT

March 10, 2024
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Henrik Sonntag, Pastor
120 N. Easton Road
Glenside, PA
215-884-3005

GATHERING

THE PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" (Near the Cross)

Dale Wood

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

No. 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Near the Cross

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

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

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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



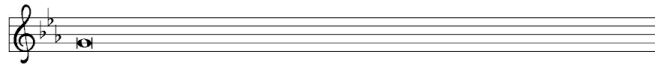
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

8:00 *The Psalm will be read responsively with the assembly reading the verses in bold.*

10:30 *The antiphon is introduced by the choir, then is sung by all. The assembly sings the verses in **bold print**.*



You de - li - ver your peo - ple from their dis - tress.

Psalm 107:19

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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- Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.
- Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress. R**
- You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.
- Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. R

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 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. 2 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. 3 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 4 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, 5 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 6 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. 7 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Third Chapter. **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.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(10:30 only) *Build New Bridges*

Wayne Wold

The Children's Choir
Susie Pierce Mills, piano

SERMON

Pastor Henrik Sonntag

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

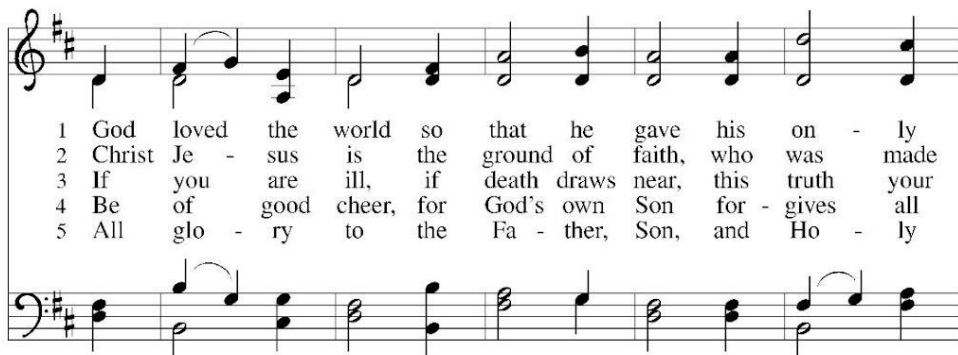
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY


No. 323 God Loved the World

Rockingham Old

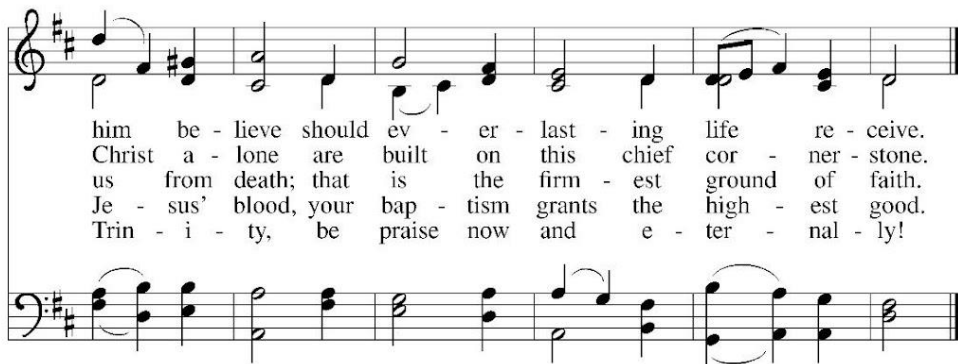
God Loved the World



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 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please kneel or sit for the prayers: This week's response is: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, especially all those on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Please stand as you are able

THE PEACE

*The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
During Lent all are invited to silently meditate on the Peace of God. The
peace will be shared again on Easter Sunday.*

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

8:00: Piano selection

10:30: *God So Loved the World*

Sir John Stainer

The Chancel Choir

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

No. 186 Create in Me

Richard W. Hillert

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



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 your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Concludes with ... **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

THE SANCTUS

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung

(During Lent we will be singing the Lord's Prayer on Sunday mornings. Copies are available at the entrance along with the bulletin. Please return this copy to where you picked it up for use again next week. Thank you.)

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

Malotte



Our Fa- ther, which art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be



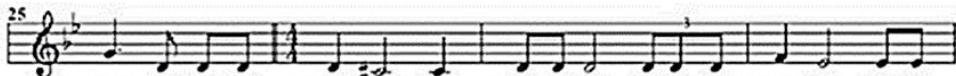
Thy name. Thy king- dom come, Thy will be



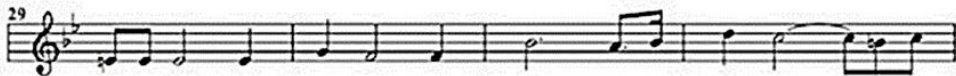
done on earth as it is in heav- en.



Give us this day our dai- ly bread, and for- give us our debts as



we for- give our debt- ors. And lead us not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de-



liv- er us from e- vil, for Thine is the King- dom and the



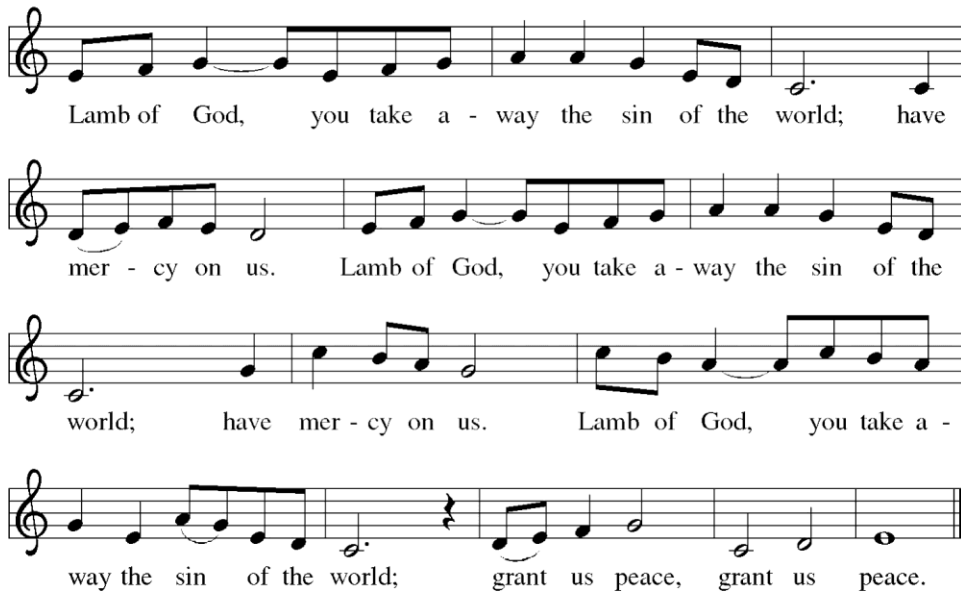
Pow- er and the Glo- ry, for- ev- er. A - men.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

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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, grant us peace.

No. 598 For by Grace You have Been Saved

Armolaulu

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.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka
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Please stand as you are able.

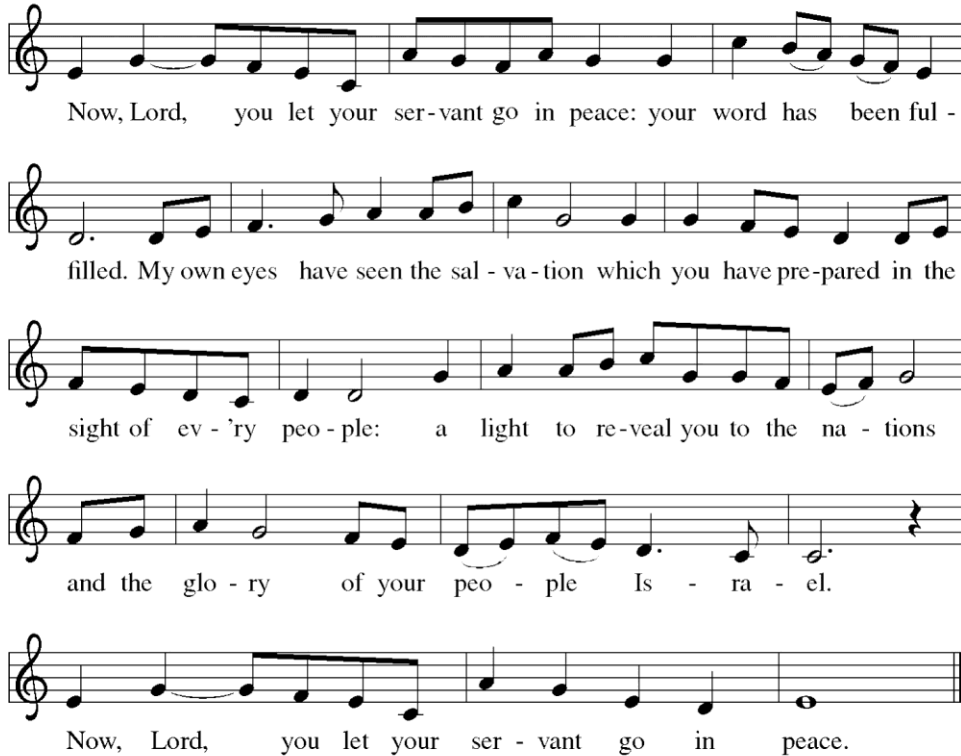
THE COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Concludes with **Amen**.

SENDING _____

THE BLESSING

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THE SENDING HYMN

No. 714 O God of Mercy, God of Light

Just As I Am

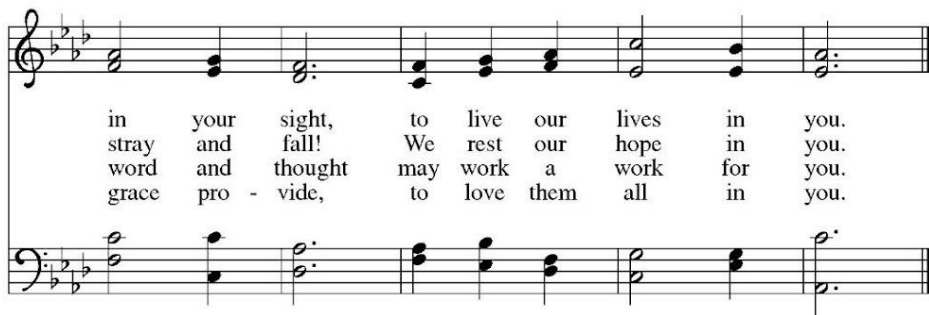
O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Please be seated for the announcements.

PARISH NOTICES AND JOYS

SENDING: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Solemn Prelude*

Gordon Young