

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 10th, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 am Services

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the Day: 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

Prelude

*Aria on 'Magdalen' – My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less – John Behnke*

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

Lord God, you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you.

As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope.

Confession and Forgiveness

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

try me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

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

1. O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have
 2. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e -

mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord.
 -lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, e - lei - son.

Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin; from
 earth - born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.

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Gracious God,

In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray. We ask for your direction, your patience, your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, who, despite his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word.

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#660 Lift High the Cross

Greeting

We gather as we live in the name of the God, our Creator; the Son, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

Amen.

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.

Word

First Reading

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 107:1-31, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 107.

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.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

p 189, Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us

Gospel

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.

The holy gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#323 God Loved the World

(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of Faith

The 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.

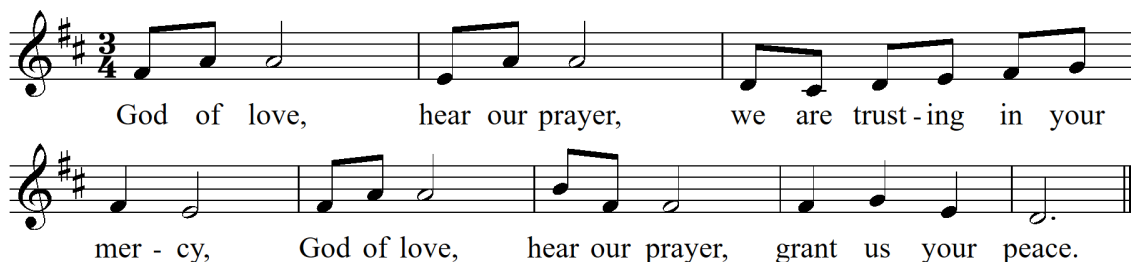
Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Call to Prayer

God of Love, Hear Our Prayer



God of love, hear our prayer, we are trust - ing in your
mer - cy, God of love, hear our prayer, grant us your peace.

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...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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

Musical Offering

8:30

Wondrous Love arr. Alice Parker – Senior Choir

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, O my soul! When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM," while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

11:00

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded arr. Sandra Eithun – The EmBELLishments*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory Response

When Grains of Wheat Fall

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground,
 2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live;
 New life with - in their death is found.
 To Christ our ran - somed lives we give.
 When grapes are crushed, there flows new wine.
 With grate - ful hearts, our gifts in hand,
 So from Christ's death flow gifts di - vine.
 Be - fore the cross of Christ we stand.

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Offertory Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so 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.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

First Communion (8:30 Service)

We celebrate with Annie Baseheart her First Communion today.

Today this community of faith rejoices because Sunday is the day Christ arose from the dead. Once again Jesus calls us to join him for a meal. We celebrate with those who today join in sharing of the Lord's Meal—Holy Communion.

We welcome you to the Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank God for your life. We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal. Come among us, O God, as we gather to worship you.

Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

We prepare our hearts to receive this meal.

Please be seated.

Call to Communion

#336 Lamb of God/Your Only Son

Communion Hymn

#808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion

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

Blessing

The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, be among us. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us both now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegro con Forza – Aaron David

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

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. 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.

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22**SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

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 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.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] “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.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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