March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Lent **Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

RINGING OF BELL PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES WELCOME

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

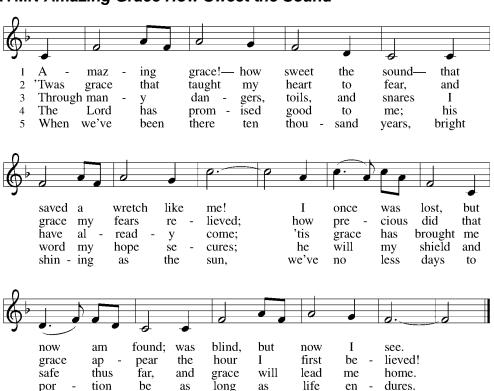
And also with you.

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.

HYMN Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound



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Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

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

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Psalm 107 is a song of thanksgiving.

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¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let 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.

- ¹⁷Some 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.
- ¹⁹Then 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.
- ²¹Let 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.

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.

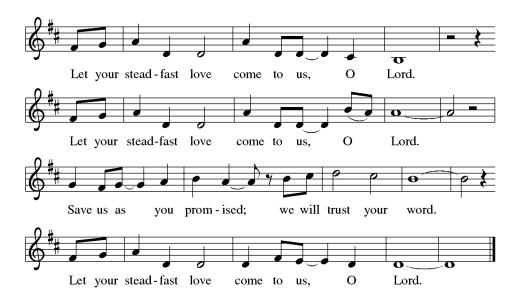
A reading from Ephesians.

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, ³so 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. ¹oFor 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: 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.

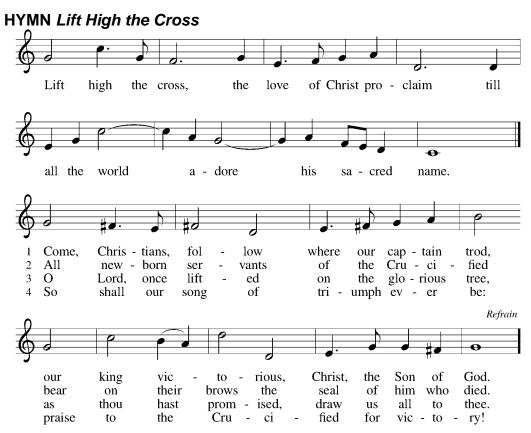
Glory to you, O Lord.

[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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Indeed, 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.

MESSAGE



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "Hear our prayer."

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

During this time, an offering would normally be taken for the mission of Christ's church. We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. We understand in this time some have lost their jobs, hours reduced and may be incurring a financial hardship and therefore unable to financially give; while others may be able to give more. Options on ways to give are found on our website (www.wbbethanv.org). Thank you!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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,

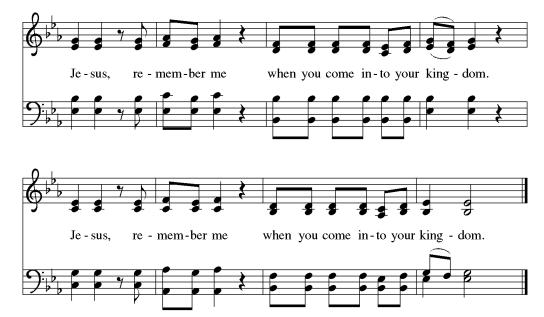
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you \pm that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

HYMN Jesus Remember Me



Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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SENDING

Sent by the Spirit, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	March 21
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Beth Kaufman	Alex P.
Technology	Andrew S.	Hannah S.
Christ's Light (Acolyte)	Arik and Aizlyn M.	
Worship (Altar Care)	Cindy Knoop	Cindy Knoop



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM on Facebook. Blessings to you as you shine forth the light of Christ in the world this week! Thanks, and praise to God for everything you do in the name of Jesus Christ!

If you are interested in learning more about Bethany Lutheran or interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Chad Whaley at 319-643-5998 or email (pastor@wbbethany.org).

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and email updates, please send your email address to our Administrative Assistant Paula Casper (<u>blcsecretary@lcom.net</u>).



Join us every Wednesday in Lent for a short prayer service of healing. This will be posted to our Facebook page at 12:00 PM and then be able to be viewed anytime thereafter. Additionally, a short devotion or reflection will accompany this worship opportunity. If you would be willing to do a short devotion the last 2 weeks, please let Pastor Chad know (pastor@wbbethany.org).





The devasting winter storm that caused power grid failure, dangerous shortages and fatal conditions across the state of Texas in February will have long-lasting impacts on those most vulnerable in the affected areas. To help with long-term relief and as an anti-hunger synod, the Southeastern Iowa Synod will be sending a gift to fight hunger as the recovery in Texas continues.

There is currently a matching grant through the Office of the Bishop for the first \$7,000 contributed to this effort by individuals, congregations, or partner ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

The Office of the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will be collecting gifts to be sent to the Southwestern Texas, Texas – Louisiana Gulf Coast, and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synods until March 26th, 2021. After this date, gifts can be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Go to the Southeastern Iowa Website to give online or mail a check directly.

https://seiasynod.org/texas-disaster-relief-2021/

You may also send a check payable to Bethany (P.O. Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358). Please designate it is for Texas storm relief. We will then submit one check of the total amounts.

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