

For by grace you have been saved through faith,
Ephesians 2:8

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

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.

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Five

The paraments are purple during the season of Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity.

✠ GATHERING ✠

ACCLAMATION

Mark Mummert/Timothy Olsen

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

OPENING VOLUNTARY Adagio *from* Concerto in B minor

J.G. Walther

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hid:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you

and worthily magnify your holy name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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.

The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.

GATHERING HYMN 339 Christ, the Life of All the Living JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered 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;

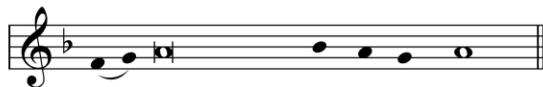
through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

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.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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.**

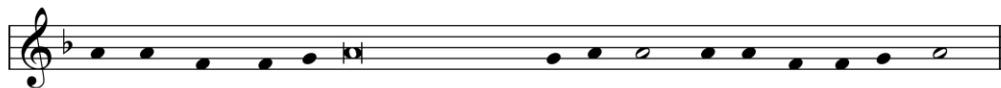
KYRIE



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



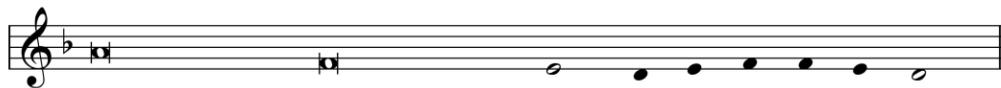
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, com - fort and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.

We sit.

WELCOME

✠ WORD ✠

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. The 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.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The 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. And 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.” So 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. *The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.*



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.

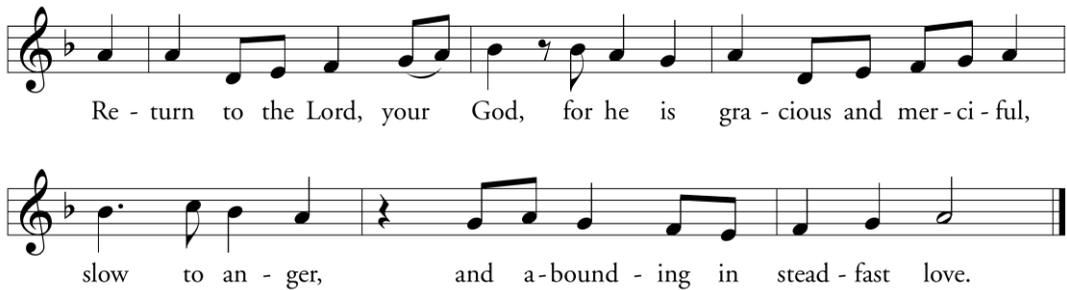
SECOND READING Ephesians 2:1-10

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. 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 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, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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. 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. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John. *The assembly responds:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 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. 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. Those 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. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But 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.**

We sit.

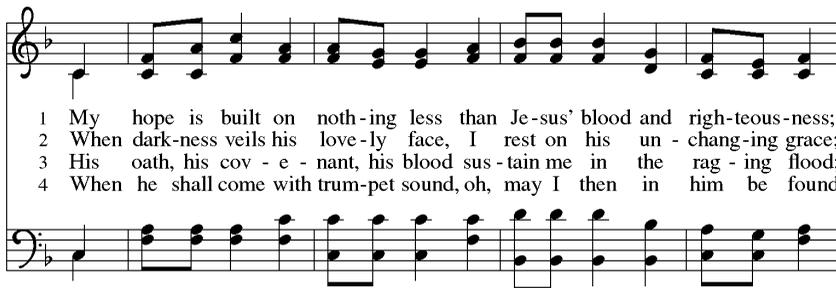
SERMON

Pastor Wollner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 596 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

THE SOLID ROCK

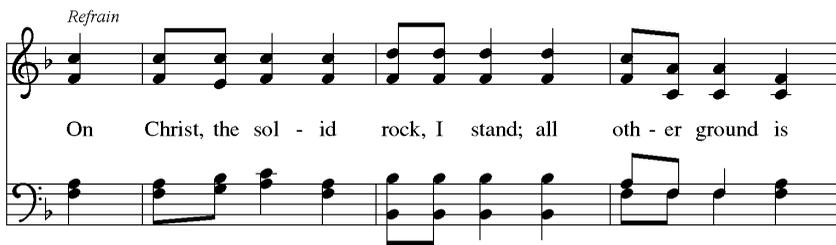


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus-tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

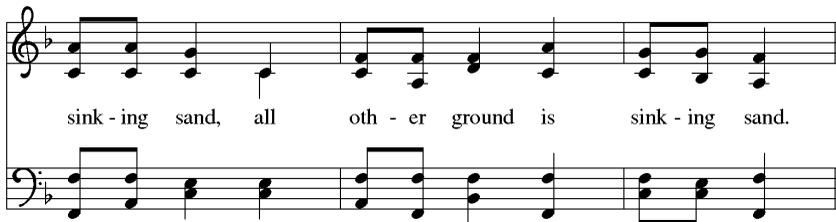


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay,
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each portion of the prayers concludes:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

We sit.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

OFFERING

ANTHEM Grant, O God, Your Blessing

Michael Bedford

Grant, O God, your blessing on us as we pray;
Grant, O God, your blessing on us all this day.
Just as Jesus prayed to you in the wilderness,
let us pray every day; hear, O Lord and bless.
For the things that we do wrong, please, O God, forgive.
Help us all, great and small, live as Jesus lived.
Amen.

Jubilate Choir & Lobchor

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

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 un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

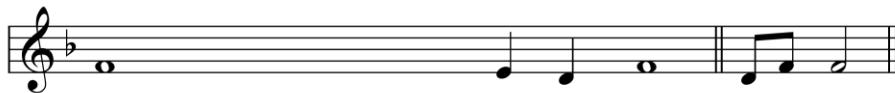
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. A - men.

SENDING HYMN 779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

NEW BRITAIN

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Psalm XX

Benedetto Marcello

Soli Deo Gloria

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Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor her husband, Ken Thornton, and her parents, Joseph and Virginia Dennis, by Carol Thornton.

This week we keep in prayer Linnea Bagby, 3810 Lakeview Drive, Pfafftown, NC 27040-9533. Please send **Linnea** note.

Important information regarding returning to in-person worship was sent via Flocknote on March 11. Please read this information carefully as we look forward to returning to community in the near future!

You are invited to participate in Prayers for Intercession and Hope as Augsburg joins six of our neighboring churches to mark the one year anniversary of the pandemic. This driving tour creates a special time of remembrance and prayer. Click on this link for more information: <https://conta.cc/3kVOTqO>

Experience the Passion Play in Germany in 2022! Pastor Paul will host two Zoom Sessions regarding this exciting 10 day trip on Sunday, March 14 at 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m. An invitation will be sent via Flocknote on Saturday, March 13. If you are unable to attend these meetings, but would like to learn more about, please contact Pastor Paul pastorpaul@alcws.org for an individual conversation.

Palm Sunday Drive Through Processional - On Monday, March 15 you will receive an invitation to be part of our Palm Sunday Processional and lay down your cloaks as we share gifts of clothing with Lowrance and the Dwelling.

Easter Lily Blessings Bags for Lowrance – This year, instead of Easter Lilies in the Chancel, you may honor a loved one with an Easter blessing bag for Lowrance Middle School. You will receive a Flocknote on March 16 with details on how to participate in this important social ministry.

Submissions for the April Beacon should be emailed to Kathy Barnes at kathy@alcws.org by Friday, March 19.

Pre-registration for Easter Services in the Parking Lot will begin on March 22. Look for a Flocknote with all the details!

Augsburg's Next Food Drive is Thursday, March 25. Please bring non-perishable items to the Portico at Augsburg from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. See the March 9 Flocknote for details.

Volunteers are needed for Christ's Beloved Community Food Pantry located at 3205 S. Main Street. Help pre-pack the bags we share with our neighbors in need. COVID restrictions and masks are required. To sign up, go to

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0d48aaaf28a7fcc61-food>

We keep you in prayer during our time apart. Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or pastoralassociate@alcws.org

Readings for next week: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Worship attendance for services last week: 196 views on YouTube.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Gretchen Troutman

Reader

Don Armitage

Preaching

Pastor Wollner

Quartet

Karen Kooken, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

Greeters

Charles Stephens & Linda Maynard-Stephens

Assisting Minister

Pastor Carter

Liturgist

Rev. Katie Bryant

AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Katie Bryant, Rostered Minister for Youth & Emerging Ministries

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Kathy Barnes, Executive Assistant

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation