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**4th Sunday**

**in Lent**

 “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” *Numbers 21:8*

**AS WE GATHER**

Before coming to faith, we were dead in trespasses and sins. But while we were dead and helpless, God made us alive! In the Epistle, Paul writes that God saved us “being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us.” But we have not simply been made physically well, like the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading, but we have been given eternal life. The central reason is that “by grace you have been saved through faith.” We are His workmanship and in the light of Christ, it is obvious that the credit for whatever works we do must go to our gracious God. We are together with Christ and already, as it were, “with Him in the heavenly places.” Now that’s really living!

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 203)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 204)

**HYMN** *“Lift High the Cross”* (*LSB* 837)

*Refrain* Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,

our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,

the hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified

bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,

as Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell

of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:

praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 205)

**OLD TESTAMENT** Numbers 21:4-9 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Ephesians 2:1-10 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 3:14-21 *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 206)

**HYMN** *“God Loved the World So That He Gave”* (*LSB* 571)

God loved the world so that He gave

His only Son the lost to save,

that all who would in Him believe

should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,

Who was made flesh and suffered death;

all then who trust in Him alone

are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;

His Son with saving grace is nigh;

His Spirit in the Word declares

how we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son

forgives all sins which you have done;

and, justified by Jesus’ blood,

your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,

this truth your troubled heart can cheer:

Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;

that is the firmest ground of faith.

**Glory to God the Father, Son,**

**and Holy Spirit, Three in One!**

**To You, O blessèd Trinity,**

**be praise now and eternally!**

**SERMON *“Whom Shall I Fear?”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 208)

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 208-210)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”* (*LSB* 702)

My faith looks up to Thee,

Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray;

take all my guilt away;

O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart

strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me,

Oh, may my love to Thee

pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread

and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;

bid darkness turn to day,

wipe sorrow’s tears away,

nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life’s transient dream,

when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll,

blest Savior, then, in love,

fear and distrust remove;

O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

**NUNC DIMITTIS** *“Song of Simeon”*(*LSB*, pg. 211)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 212)

### BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 212

**HYMN** *“Amazing Grace”* (*LSB* 744)

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!

The Lord has promised good to me,

His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far,

His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail

and mortal life shall cease,

amazing grace shall then prevail

in heaven’s joy and peace.

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.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

Rev. Curt Hoover, Rev. Alebachew Teshome,

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**