



Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 8:45am
Fourth Sunday in Lent – The Promise of Restoration

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Rest in the Lord *Felix Mendelssohn*

*O Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him,
And he shall give thee thy heart's desires.
Commit thy way unto him and trust in him,
And fret not thyself because of evil doers
O Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him.*

WELCOME

We gather in the Triune name of God: who gives us their Word,
whose promise makes us one people, who seals and delivers us.
Amen.

A TIME OF LAMENT

The sin of racism hurts communities of color, fractures human relationships, and denies God's good creation...

Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism...

Let us bear this suffering together as one body, beloved, as we turn to God and cry out in lament and prayer.

A brief silence.

... We cry out to you, **hear our lament, O God.**

... We call to you, **open our hearts, O God.**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

... And fill us with the peace that passes understanding—the deep, restorative peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

ELW 779



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.

GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God who so loves this world, sometimes we come to you by night or in crisis, and the encounter is not what we hope. Sometimes you leave us with more questions than answers. Sometimes our pain doesn't kill us, but it still hurts us. In such times, sit with us patiently, God, and give us faith to trust your promise that you came not to condemn the world but to save and restore it.

Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

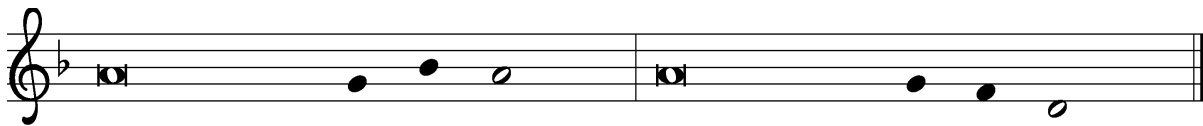
*The refrain is sung by the cantor, then by ALL;
The verses are sung responsively using the psalm tone.*

Refrain



You de - liv - er your peo - ple from their dis - tress.

Psalm Tone



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let 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.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress. Refrain**

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

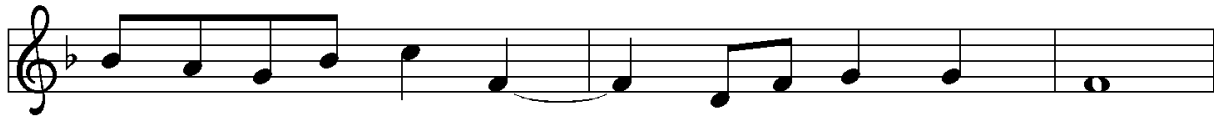
²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy. **Refrain**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S125 – Marty Haugen



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



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



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

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 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.

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.

SERMON

Rev. Christina Garrett Klein

HYMN OF THE DAY *God Loved the World*

ELW 323

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!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each prayer with the words, "**Your mercy is great.**"

A brief silence.

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

Amen.

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

+ + + *Receive the Meal* + + +

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*We pause for prayer and reflection, and to give time to commune those gathered
with others in the household.*

SENDING

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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 ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
- 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
- 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
- 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Dwell in God’s promise.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

Lani Smith



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Our Mission:

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries,
meet with our pastor, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to call or
email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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***Join us on ZOOM for Lenten midweek services, Wednesdays at 7pm.
See you next week for worship at 5pm on Saturday
and livestream at 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday!***