

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Fourth Sunday in Lent
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence for reflection.

Gracious God,
pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. **Amen.**

Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the mercy and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Rest in the promise of Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Amazing Grace
Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4

ELW #779

- 1
- 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.
- 2
- 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3
- Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
 his word my hope secures;
 he will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.

GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from our sin, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving Father, when we were captive in the darkness of sin and death, your Son rescued us and brought us back to you. Teach us to trust in him and to live as your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

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

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

(read responsively)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
 for God's mercy endures 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 rebellious paths;**
 through their sins they were afflicted.
¹⁸They loathed all manner 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.
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.

SECOND READING

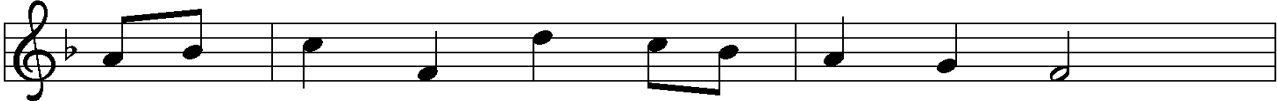
Ephesians 2:1-10

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, 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.

Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL *John 3:14-21*

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴Just 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.

SERMON Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY *For by Grace you Have Been Saved* ELW #598

1 For by grace you have been saved
and even faith is not your own,
it's the gift of God for you
and not the works that you have done.
Don't let anybody boast,
for this is God's great gift. Amen.

2 "So my grace is all sufficient
for each child who is my own,
for my strength is now made perfect
for each child who is my own.

When you're weak, then you are strong,
for this is God's great gift." Amen.

3 So this weakness with contentment
I'll accept now in myself,
all my hardships, pains, and griefs
that still lie deep within myself.
When I'm weak, then I am strong,
for this is God's great gift. Amen. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 THE PEOPLE

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

Prayer response: Hear us, O God,
your mercy endures forever.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

Offering will not be taken during worship; a basket is available in the back of the sanctuary to drop off today's offering. As we continue to worship through the gift of radio and internet, we encourage you to consider giving a gift online at zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving or by mail as you are able. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.



OFFERING MUSIC

Sue Gates, pianist

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with your Word of grace and new life. Bless us and these gifts, that what you provide might spread the good news of your saving death for all the world. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.**

BENEDICTION

May God, who has called us forth from the dust of the earth and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you with His Word of life. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light
Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4

ELW #715

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

SENDING WORDS

Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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