



WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

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WEB ADDRESS: www.graceoflilylake.com

Sunday, March 14, 2021 * 9 AM * ONLINE



Fourth Sunday of Lent

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON – On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. God promises the baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world. Won't you join the caravan of faithful, remembering our baptism and walking the way of the Lord?

TODAY'S THEME – God offers healing grace to broken and hopeless humanity. The Old Testament promises provide 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.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP FROM HOME.

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.

Announcements are televised or found on our website

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

*Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.
We hope all people find it easy to follow along.*

GOD GATHERS US

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting March 7th, worship will be held in Grace Sanctuary, following social distancing, wearing of masks are required. RESPONSE to reading and SINGING are *discouraged*; however, if you do respond or sing, please be very quiet as a whisper. This is to adhere to CDC and ELCA MCS recommendations.

Announcements are found on our website

PRELUDE

Meditation on Wondrous Love

We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.

WEEKLY CONFESSIONAL LENTEN LITURGY

- P God of grace, we often find it hard to forgive ourselves, let alone others. We may still be struggling with things we've done that are keeping us from turning toward a newfound purpose and way of life that you reveal to us through Jesus Christ. When we fully receive your forgiveness, that transformation may begin to happen, and we are inspired to show that same forgiveness to others. And so...
For the self-made prisons in which we doubt our worth in your eyes...
- ALL Help us receive your forgiveness.**
- P For the ways we lash out at others because we have not yet come to terms with something within ourselves...
- ALL Help us receive your forgiveness.**
- P For the ways we are not yet willing and able to forgive others...
- ALL Help us receive your forgiveness.**
- P For times in which we attempt to isolate ourselves from you and from other people to avoid being hurt again...
- ALL Help us receive your forgiveness.**
- P Help us receive your forgiveness, O God, and to be renewed for a journey back toward wholeness of life and spirit.
- ALL Amen.**

OPENING SONG

In The Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324 vs 1-3

In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

ALL And also with you.

P Let us pray..... All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day worn by another week. In our journey to know and follow you, walk with us.

For through the parched desert, we are empty and in need of replenishment.

Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit,

and bathe us in your streams of living water,

that our lives might acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

P Turn toward God, follow the tumultuous path of righteousness. May the peace of the Lord encompass you.

ALL And you also.

Share the peace with each other either by a wave or a bow.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

INTRODUCTION – 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

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.

R Word of God; Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God.



THE HOLY GOSPEL

according to St. John.

John 3:14-21

ALL Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from you presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

INTRODUCTION – 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.

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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ.

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor Soren Flessen

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Lent is usually perceived of and described as, a journey. Today's Gospel tells of Jesus journey as one forced by the Holy Spirit after his baptism. As God's baptized sons and daughters, what do we make of this journey in the wilderness of our worldly wandering?
- Have you ever been in a deserted area at night? What dangers did you feel in that "desert?" What does it feel like to be lost and alone?
- God leads us down right pathways and restores our soul. What renewal do you suppose God has in store for you as you journey this Lent?

Lift High the Cross



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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RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOODNESS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Lenten Creed

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess this in Jesus the Christ. Amen

— from *Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide*, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba. <http://www.patmosabbey.org/>

OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P In Jesus, God shows us the path to righteousness and everlasting life. God has written the law of love on our hearts. And so we become people of generous hearts – giving as Jesus gave to show the generosity, unwavering passion and grace of God.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude and faith, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us, trusting you will provide for what we need, and knowing you will use them to share your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves. Help us to live with generous hearts, with open hands. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord we pray.

ALL Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online.
Please let us know your prayer needs.*

Please respond accordingly

P Hear us O God,

All Your Mercy is Great.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Traditional)

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.

(Modern)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen

5

GOD SENDS US

BLESSING

P 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.

ALL Amen.

5

CLOSING SONG

God of Grace and God of Glory

LBW 415 vs 1-3

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

ALL Thanks be to God

ADDITIONAL WEEKLY LECTIONARY LESSONS

March 14, 2021

Traditionally, there are four readings weekly. We usually focus on 2 but often refer to the others so it may be helpful to have them at your fingertips. The lectionary is a three year cycle which gets us through hearing MUCH not all of the Bible, but not always in order.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- 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.

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.

LENTEN CREED

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who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

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and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 7, 2020

Starting March 7th, worship will be held in Grace Sanctuary, following social distancing, wearing of masks are required. Reading out loud RESPONSE and SINGING are discouraged; however, if you do respond or sing, please be very quiet as a whisper. This is to adhere to CDC and ELCA MCS information.

PALM and EASTER SUNDAY service will require Reservations, information to follow

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP WILL CONTINUE WEEKLY **AT 10:30 AM** on Sundays following our online worship services. Join our Grace family for sharing news, prayers information and more. Don't miss out! Check your eblast for details.

MIDWEEK LENTEN JOURNEY VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95615147239?pwd=TIY5QnV4bkV3ZFRQaHk2RVhPeTJMdz09>

Meeting ID: 956 1514 7239

Passcode: Grace

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,95615147239#,,, *315474# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 956 1514 7239

Passcode: 315474

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Annual Meeting Minutes are available at Grace

REAL NEWS TO USE DURING THESE TIMES

VISIT OUR Website www.graceoflilylake.com FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SERVICES
Check out our updated website. Get ALL the news you NEED there – including our weekly services

And our FACEBOOK PAGE or Youtube page for activities and posts of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceOfLilyLake/>

<https://youtube.com/graceoflilylake.com>

630-365-6751



THOSE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

- * God's Church in all time and place, that God be seen and heard.
- * As we face these times both together and while apart, keep us from fear, suffering and death.
- * Ministries of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod, especially Bishop Yehiel Curry.
- * Efforts of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Disaster Relief

FOR THE WORLD

- For every living person facing the threat of coronavirus – it affects us all, our loved ones and our worldwide neighbors together.
- For the healing of the divisions in our Nation and the quelling of fascism and white supremacy.

FOR OUR CONGREGATION

- * For God's Spirit to guide the Vision Team, and whole congregation as we face transition and change.
- * As we plan regarding the future of our congregation.

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY (members, relatives, and friends of members of our congregation)

- * Glenn Adams, son of Mark and Renee Adams * Lucy Adams
 - * Adam Sajdak, grandson of Bill and Lori U'Ren * William Delmer, grandson of Kirk and Kathy Hooey
- (If you know of someone currently serving our country, please share their information with the Church office.)

FOR ALL

- * The continued support of our members * For all members of healthcare around the world
- * For those serving as first responders and in the military * For our Nation, that extend peace in all things.

FOR THOSE SICK IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT

Margaret Swanson Fred Alstadt, Joan Mortenson, Chris Richards and Lisa Leyden

Vicki Barclay, Russ Bohlin, Carl Ekstrom, Manfred Kaufmann, Paul Kinsel, Jeannine Luchs, Paul Mantsch, Jan and Mike Myers, Ray Navarro, friend of Pam Bohlin, Ken Patterson, Carol Prevenas, Pastor Rex, Nancy Schaeffer, John Schnaitman, Shirley Turner.

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

For George and Gloria and their family, at the death of George's sister, Linda
The family and friends of Pete Prevenas
Donna, upon her husband Joe's death. We grieve with her.

*Please let us know your prayer requests for inclusion in our public prayers.
Type them in the comments or send them to the church office via our prayer card on our website.*

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GRACE'S MISSION IS

To share God's GRACE with all through our rich traditions of faith, family, and community.

Gospel – God's love shared in all we say & do

Respect for all God's people & creation

Action – response to the Gospel

Community – Loving God, neighbor, & self

Everyone – we are all God's children