

SO MUST THE
SON OF
MAN
BE
LIFTED UP

JOHN 3:14



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church

ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE — Let Us Break Bread Together, Martha Sobaje, arr., © 2020.

Leopold Editions

Organist — Brenda Peck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
 Out of love for the whole world,
 God draws near to us,
 breaks every snare of sin,
 washes away our wrongs,
 and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

ELW #334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.
 as your gospel shining bright.

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Gloria!

Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

Open now our lips and our mouths shall give praise.
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

O Lord, rush to help to deliver Your world.
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

Maker, Spirit, Friend, You are Great Mystery!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ WORD +

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: 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

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

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

You Are Slow (2 times)

Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "You are slow to an-ger full of com-pas-sion A-bound-ing in un - fail-ing love Teach us your way and we will walk, we will walk in it" repeated on the second and fourth staves.

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GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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. ²¹ 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.

SERMON

PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW #666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM — Lenten Meditation

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Jay Althouse

+ THE MEAL +

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OFFERING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186



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

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 207

The musical score is written on four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.
 A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Video Song
ELW #338

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
 strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

BLESSING

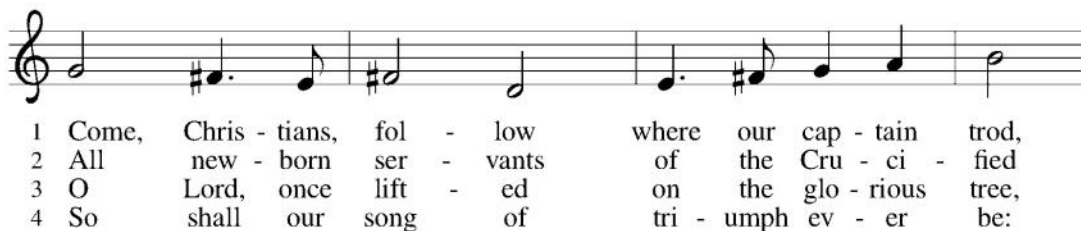
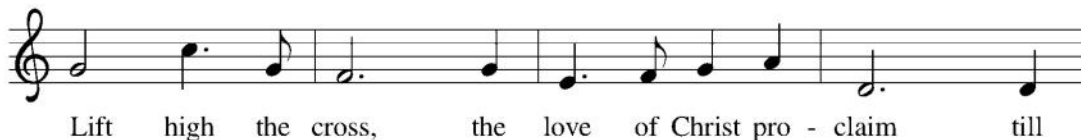
Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660



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. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Praise to the Living God, tune Leoni (Hebrew), Edward Broughton, arr.,
© 2003, Lorenz Publishing Co. Organist — Brenda Peck

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ABOUT THIS WEEK'S TEXT

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.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, PAULA TONELLATO,
NORM KOEFOED, IVY KOEFOED, RON WEBER,
GENE WALKER, BILL SPINDEL, NANCY KIEL, RAY STROH,
VALERIE SPURGEON, DIANE CHRISTELL, PASTOR MARY, JAY EDGECOMB

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 10:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING: DOUG MCFARLAN

USHERS: ELIZABETH MITCHELL, LIBBY LETTERLY

CAMERA: AMANDA KIM

POWERPOINT: CARTER KIM

MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK

REFRESHMENTS: FRIENDS OF FELLOWSHIP

FLOWERS: CLAIRE AND JAY EDGECOMB — **IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 52ND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

SUNDAYS@6 — 6:00PM

MONDAY, MARCH 11

QUILTERS — 6:00PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

EVANGELISM/FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS — 6:00PM (ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

LADIES BREAKFAST — 8:30AM

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING — 10:00AM

LENTEN DINNER CHURCH — 5:30PM

CHOIR PRACTICE — 7:00PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE — 5:30PM (ZOOM)

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING — 11:15AM

SUNDAYS@6 — 6:00PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GROWING IN BAPTISMAL GRACE

During the season of Lent all are invited to Dinner Church on Wednesday evenings. Dinner church is a type of worship that involves fellowship, a meal, scripture, discussion, and Holy Communion. Pope Francis has said, “Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert and live out our baptism fully.” Each week we will consider a facet of Baptism. There will be opportunity to discuss the significance of this sacrament as well as a hands-on activity each week. Join us as we dive deeper into our baptisms and learn how we can live out our baptisms more fully!

WORSHIP/MEAL BEGINS AT 5:30P.M.

FEBRUARY 21, 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- DWELLING IN THE WORD MEETS AT 10:45AM AFTER WORSHIP
- SUNDAYS@6 MEETS VIA ZOOM AT 6:00PM ON SUNDAY EVENINGS. SEE NYCU FOR A LINK TO THE MEETING.
- WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT BOOKS AND MONETARY DONATIONS FOR THE LOVE OF READING FOR BLACKHAWK SCHOOL. YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!
- WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT KLEENEX FOR BLACKHAWK SCHOOL AND THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER. SEE NYCU FOR MORE INFORMATION.
- TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS, SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL YVONNE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 217-546-7646. MANY DATES STILL AVAILABLE.
- TO SPONSOR REFRESHMENTS FOR AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP TIME, CONTACT LINDA RICE AT 217-494-2658.
- LADIES OF PEACE BREAKFAST IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024, AT 8:30AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. ALL LADIES ARE INVITED.

PRAYER IS SUCH A VITAL PART OF OUR WORSHIP. PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE A NAME FROM THE BOWL IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY AND **INTENTIONALLY PRAY** FOR THAT PERSON THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Food Baskets for Blackhawk School

It's time to begin collecting food items for Peace's annual gift of Easter food baskets to 20 families at Blackhawk Elementary School, in partnership with the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry. Each year at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, we provide families at Blackhawk with a large tote of non-perishable foods, a 10-pound ham, a gallon of milk, a dozen eggs, a loaf of bread, a sack of snacks, and a bag of personal hygiene items. Below are a suggested schedule for the items we will collect and the quantities we need. In addition to food, you can support this project with monetary donations earmarked for "Holiday Food Baskets." The baskets will be packed at Grace Food Pantry and delivered to Blackhawk on Wednesday, March 27.

- February 18 - 20 boxes of Cereal
- February 25 - 20 boxes of Cereal
20 Cans of Peaches
- March 3 -- 20 packages of Spaghetti
20 cans of Pasta sauce
- March 10 - 20 cans of beef ravioli**
20 cans of pork and beans
- March 17 - 20 jars of peanut butter
20 jars of jelly
- March 24—20 boxes of mac and cheese



HELP US
STOCK OUR
MICRO
PANTRY
STORAGE
SHELVES





Peace Lutheran Church
2800 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-546-7646
E-mail: peace.lutheran@comcast.net



If you would like
a visit from
Pastor Mary or
you have a
pastoral
emergency,
please call
Pastor on her
**cell phone at
920.671.4338.**