

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Fourth Sunday
in
LENT

10:00 a.m.

March 11, 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor
125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085

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Music Ministry Site: stjohnsmusic.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35



The Order of Morning Worship – Setting Three

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER

If you were to conduct a survey on a congregation's favorite passages from Scripture, both today's Epistle Holy Gospel would likely end up among the most loved, and rightly so. Both of these sets of verses get to the heart of what the faith is all about. They get to heart of what it is that makes Christianity different from all other world religions—things like grace, love, and sacrifice. These big two passages are "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8–9) and "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). These are verses that we should read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest!

✠ ORGAN PRELUDE

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **428**: *"Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"*

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Service of the Word

p. 186

Gloria Patri

Kyrie

Salutation

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT: Numbers 21:4–9 (*Moses and the bronze serpent*)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the 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 loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And 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.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† EPISTLE: Ephesians 2:1–10 (*God raised us up with Christ.*)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

† HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:14–21 (*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C (Sung): Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever condemns in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (Sung): Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Be Seated)

† HYMN of the DAY No. **702**: *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

† SERMON: *"Look Up and Live"* Numbers 21:4-9

† OFFERTORY: (Page 192)

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS
Choir Anthem: *"God So Loved the World"* John Stainer

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who are ailing and those who grieve, that they may be strengthened in body and spirit, confident of the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Pastor comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. **628**: "*Your Table I Approach*"

***At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
the NUNC DIMITTIS on p. 199***

† CLOSING HYMN No. **434**: "*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*"

† SILENT PRAYER

† POSTLUDE

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Assisting Elders – Paul Brose & Bill
Schneeloch

Acolyte – Dan Provost

Lay Reader – Gavi Greenspan

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

Offerings for March 4:

Needed to meet the Budget \$3,304.77

Collected \$3,084.00

Deficit \$ 220.77

Attendance:

Sunday, March 4.....60

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (March 11, 2018)

Numbers 21:4–9, Ephesians 2:1–10, John 3:14–21

Jesus Is Lifted Up on the Cross so that We May Look to Him and Live

The people sinned by speaking “against God and against Moses,” and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which “bit the people, so that many people of Israel died” (Numbers 21:4–6). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to “make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,” so that “if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live” (Numbers 21:8–9). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith “may have eternal life” (John 3:14–16). By His cross, “the light has come into the world,” not for condemnation, but “that the world might be saved through Him” (John 3:17–19). While we “were dead in the trespasses and sins” in which we once lived (Ephesians 2:1), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live “with Him in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 2:4–6).

They Are Among Us

No, we’re not talking about angels or aliens. We’re talking about individuals who care about others. The Scriptures describe their service well: “Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering” (Hebrews 13:3). If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation’s one-to-one caregiving ministry. A training class is starting soon. Please contact Paul or Patti Brose at 562-6599, Dan Provost at 977-1525 or Pastor Riley for more information.

HYMN SING and POT LUCK: Join us next Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Come prepared with some of the titles of your favorite hymns from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) as we sing through a few verses of each. Every hymn will begin with an improvised introduction in the Lutheran tradition by organist Jeff Windoloski. Following the hymn sing in the sanctuary, we invite everyone to bring an appetizer, hot dish or dessert to share for a time of fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall. Invite your family and friends.