

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, year B

March 14, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Fourth Sunday in Lent, year B

In today's gospel reading, Jesus compares himself to the serpent in the wilderness, lifted up before the people of Israel so they could be healed. Jesus now will be lifted up on the cross so that all who hold to him will be healed. God sent the Son, not to condemn, but to save the world. We who have heard the words of love and mercy in today's scriptures go forth to speak with forgiveness rather than condemnation, making the immeasurable riches of God's grace in Christ our Lord known to all the world.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The link is embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the link in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

HYMN: "Kyrie" (Orbis Factor)

Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday in Lent, year A, March 8, 2020. Mount Olive Cantorei, Chad Fothergill, organist.

Word

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9; reader – Matt McCuen, lector

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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, * for God's mercy endures forever.
²Let 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.
¹⁷Some 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.
¹⁹Then 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.
²¹Let 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.

Recorded by members of the Cantorei on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10; reader – Rose Thompson, assisting minister

Paul writes: 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Return to the Lord”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday in Lent, year A, March 16, 2014.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

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. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who trust in him are not judged; but those who do not trust are judged already, because they have not trusted in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹

And 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.”

SERMON

Cosmic Healing

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection.

HYMN: ELW 631, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Sung at Mount Olive at the Lent Procession Service, February 18, 2018.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Amy Thompson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: Amen*

HYMN: ELW 666, "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Sung at Mount Olive at the Lent Procession Service, March 1, 2020.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☞ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Improvisation on Kyrie (Orbis Factor)

Recorded on March 18, 2020; Chad Fothergill, organist.



In Our Prayers

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Evelyn Royce; Julia Adams; Elizabeth Beissel, Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; James Wilkes; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Bob Adamson, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Ellen Katsoulis, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Kathryn Glick, aunt/godmother of Kathy Thurston; Sue Smith and Steve Swanson, friend of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim

Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Peg Boyle, mother of Amy Thompson; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilke, Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes and family, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

- **At the death of:** Don Hedman; Victor Price, husband of former Mount Olive pastor, Bill Heisley.
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Orrin Tietz, Merilee Fryer, Marilyn Gebauer, Steven Manuel, and Kandi Jo Nelson.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

March 17: *St. Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461* – A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

March 19: *St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus* – Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.