



Sunday, March 14, 2021

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF LAMENT AND THANKSGIVING

GATHERING HYMN

*"Lead Me, Guide Me"*

GREETING

KYRIE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

## WORD

A reading from Numbers.

From 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. 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 detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The 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. And 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." So 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.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Live Stream via  
facebook.com/salcwausau  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

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

- <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
- <sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- <sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- <sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.
- <sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**
- <sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.
- <sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- <sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

A reading from Ephesians.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in 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. All 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. For 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

The gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “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. Those 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. 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. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

*“God Loved the World”*

APOSTLE’S CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND CANTICLE

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN

*“Christ the Life of All the Living”*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Serving in Worship***

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Joel Freiberg - Pianist

Doug and Alicia Gjertson - Layreaders & Vocalists

Diane Goetsch - Vocalist

***Technical Support***

Ryan Schwantes

Peter Schwantes

Joel Freiberg

Bob Wiederhoeft

***Altar Flowers***

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Priscilla Grittner in memory of her husband, Paul.

***Thank you for your offerings and continued support!***

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be “open to all”. For the many ways you give, thank you.

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MARCH 14, 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*God loves the whole world.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The serpent of bronze
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Faith is a gift from God
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	The essence of the law
Thursday	1 John 5:1-5	Faith conquers the world
Friday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	The song of joy
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*“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.”*

**John 3:16 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of steadfast love, help us to remember that you hate nothing that you have created and that you love the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who fed the Israelites in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today with this food and nourishing us with your love. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God who loves the world shine brightly on you with the light of Christ.



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MARCH 14, 2021

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Christ Be Our Light*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you really love to do.
- How do you show love for others?
- God created the whole world and loves it. What does that say about the kind of God we have?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 3:14-21.

These words from Jesus are part of a conversation he is having with Nicodemus who had come to see Jesus by night. There is a contrast here between those who love the darkness (initially Nicodemus) and those who “come to the light” (v. 21). Nicodemus would eventually be drawn to the light by defending Jesus in front of the Pharisees (John 7:51-52) and preparing Jesus’ body after his crucifixion (John 19:39). In the Gospel of John, following and believing in Jesus can be a journey of coming to the light and gaining eternal life, as Nicodemus does. Darkness cannot choose light; it must be overcome by the light. The judgement of which Jesus speaks is remaining in the dark. Eternal life is having the light of Christ overcome the darkness that prevents us from seeing and loving Jesus. How has the light of Christ helped you in challenging times or times of darkness?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and to the light of Christ that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. The symbol of a snake on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week, plan an act of thanks and appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther referred to John 3:16, the *Scripture Verse for this Week*, as “the gospel in miniature.” *“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.”* This week, light a candle and read the *Daily Bible Reading* each day, then say the *Prayer for the Week* and a word of thanks for how God shows love to you and the world. End by saying: **Remember that you are God’s, and to God you shall return.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)