

# LARGE PRINT EDITION



## HOLY COMMUNION

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 10, 2024 + 9:30 am

*The lifting up of the Son of Man*

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Learn Live and Share God's Word

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### ***Look to Christ to live***

*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.*

*The Sundays in Lent this year lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures (first reading) and to use them as lenses through which to view holy baptism (gospel reading).*

February 18

*The covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:8-17)*

February 25

*The covenant with Abraham and Sara (Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16)*

March 3

*The covenant (commandments) at Sinai (Ex. 20:1-17)*

**March 10**

***The covenant renewal (lifting up of the serpent) (Num. 21:4-9)***

March 17

*A new covenant written on the heart (Jer. 31-31-34)*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### PRELUDE

*"The Penitent/Near the Cross"*

*arr. Martin/Binckes*

*At the sound of the bell please stand and face the worship leaders.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*(hymn)* ELW 666

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

- 1 What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**
- 2 When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**
- 3 To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb,  
who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**
- 4 And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing God's love for me,**

**and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

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

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly is invited to stand or kneel; and all may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P** Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*silence is kept for reflection.*

**Kyrie** (*Lord have mercy*) *sing responsively* (ELW setting 4, p. 147)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** Gracious God,

**C** we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

**Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sin. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

### **GREETING AND 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.

**C And also with you.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

*The presider continues with words of welcome.*

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

### **CHILDREN'S WORD**

*Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.*

## FIRST READING

*The lifting up of the serpent*

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.*

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. <sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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.

... The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22 (ICEL)

*You deliver your people from their distress. (107:19)*

A Give thanks to the Lord of goodness, for God is lasting love.

Let those saved by God tell their story:

**C how the Lord snatched them from the oppressor’s might,  
gathering them from east and west, from north and south.**

A Disease struck down others for rebelling in their sin.

**C Sickened by food, they almost died.**

A Then they cried out, and God snatched them from danger,  
spoke a word of healing, and kept them alive.

**C Let them celebrate God's love,  
all the wonders revealed to them.**

A Let them offer a sacrifice of praise and tell their story with joy.

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;  
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;  
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;  
both now and forever. Amen.**

## SECOND READING

*Alive in Christ*

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.*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your

own doing; it is the gift of God — <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>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.

...The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing:*

**C Return to the Lord your God who is gracious and merciful;  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## GOSPEL

*The lifting up of the Son of Man*

John 3:14–21

*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.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>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.

**C Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*(hymn)* ELW 342

"There in God's Garden"

*stanza 1, 2, 4*

**1 There in God's garden  
stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth  
the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge,  
Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.**

**2 Its name is Jesus,  
name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches  
see the scars of suff'ring;  
see where the tendrils  
of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.**

**4 See how its branches  
reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says,  
"Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness,  
give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."**

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982  
Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** 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**

*Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.*

*after each petition:*

....hear us, O God,

**C** Your mercy is great.

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## RECONCILING PEACE

**P** In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.*

## OFFERING

*When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.*

"Lamb of God"

*Twyla Paris*

## Offertory Prayer

**A** Let us pray together.

**C** **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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C it is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...and join their unending hymn: *(ELW setting 2, p. 130)*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:*

Lord's Prayer (1789)

C Our Father who art 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.

**Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion**

**Communion**

"Lamb of God"

*(ELW setting 2; page 136)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have

mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the

**world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Worshipers are invited to kneel at the chancel rail or in the pews after receiving the Lord's Supper.*

*silence for reflection concludes the communion*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**A** Let us pray.

God of mercy,

we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son. Accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism. And send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*We are sent to be God's hands in the world*

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

With all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.

Keep these words in your heart as you walk the way of Lent.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*(hymn)* ELW 779

“Amazing Grace”

stanza 1-4

- 1** Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.
- 2** 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3** Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
- 4** The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ,  
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

“There In God’s Garden”

*arr. Von Pecsilyi / K Lee Scott*

*You are welcomed to be seated and enjoy the postlude if you wish.*

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Trina Benedict, *assisting minister*

Roger Peterson, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir

Myrna Flatland, Dave Larson, *technology desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Steve Ristuben, Justin Fischer, *ushers*

Al Erickson, *bus ministry*

Jim & Nancy Felicetta, *coffee hosts*

**Chancel flowers** this weekend are given by the Labandz family  
in honor of Zoe's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday Zoe!

*If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.*

*Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.*

*This service is being streamed live on the internet.*

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## WORSHIP LIFE

*Fasting, Prayer, and Acts of Love  
The Disciplines of Lent*

### **Part 3: Acts of Love**

Lent means spring. This is a season for a new awakening and for spring house-cleaning. It means cleaning out the dust and grime of a long, dark winter. The rags and dust mops and brooms of that house-cleaning are the tools called **fasting, prayer, and acts of love**. We fast for the good of our bodies. We pray for the good of our relationship with God. We give alms and offer acts of love for the good of our sisters and brothers. These tools are always “for the *good* of” something. These age-old disciplines reflect our most fundamental concerns: our relationship with God (prayer), with our bodies (fasting), and with each other (acts of love).

*This week – acts of love.*

This third discipline of Lent has traditionally been called almsgiving. But it’s a word that doesn’t mean much to us anymore. The poor box. The widow’s mite. The little graphic below shows a gift of money – alms. But aside from being a dusty word, we can also think differently about this Lenten discipline. We give alms and offer acts of love for the good of our sisters and brothers. Sometimes the sacrifice is larger if we offer our valuable time; if we become emotionally involved; if we go beyond dropping our spare change into an alms box. But whether it is through gifts of time, talent, or treasure this Lenten journey is a time to strengthen our relationships with one another – and especially with the least of those among us – for it is there where Christ has promised also to be. A gift to alleviate hunger, generated

from your Lenten fasting, a gift to the hunger ministries for your Lenten supper, or to ELCA World Hunger, or disaster relief can be a way to keep a Holy Lent.



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## GAZE UPON HIM AND LIVE







Photos © D Foy Christopherson

# WELCOME



**Everyone is welcome.** We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org)

**Children are welcome** at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

**Welcome to the Lord's Table.** All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

**Welcome to the Holy Baptism.** All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

## Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org) for more information or to join.



**Digital giving** is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at [mountcarmelmpls.org](http://mountcarmelmpls.org) and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



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