

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from Augustana & First Lutheran

In Person Worship (up to 75 attendees)

With worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

www.augustanalutheran.org www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

PRELUDE

MEGHAN STRINGER

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus..

(Ephesians 2:4-7)

GATHERING HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

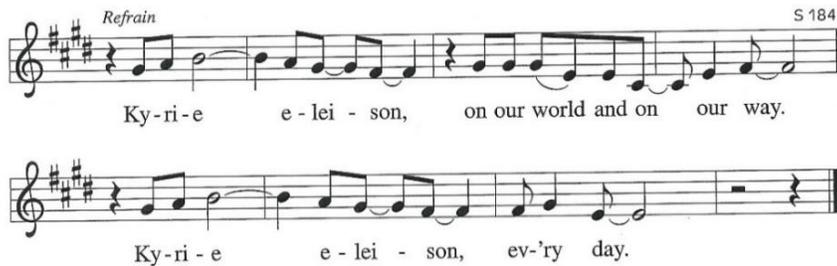
ELW 779 Vs. 1,2,5

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.**

KYRIE

p. 184 Congregation sings the refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Pause for silent reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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Refrain Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Verse 1 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Verse 2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. **Refrain**

Verse 3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Final Refrain Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

KRISTY WICKLUND

READING: NUMBERS 21:4-9

The Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food". Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. Here ends the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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S 189

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O' Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but the people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done through God. The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

"People of the Light"

REV. DAVID STROM

Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: William H. Doane, 1832–1915

NEAR THE CROSS
7 6 7 6 and refrain

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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. Let us pray,
Your mercy is great.

Pause for silent prayer.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower our congregations in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

We are God's people, the church. We come together to engage in the work for which we have been called with our hearts and minds as well as our hands and feet. Our ministry in this community has been moved into new ways of reaching out to others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have asked you O God, for your strength to persevere in these challenging times, and You have delivered. May you energize your people to continue to give and to live generously, and we thank you for the due diligence of your people in the past and present. Today, we ask that you give us glad and generous hearts, so that we may praise you and support our churches and those around us in need. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen!**

OFFERTORY

"Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"

WORSHIP & PRAISE #41

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room

of a guest house 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.

The body of Christ given for you. *(all share in eating the bread)*

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.

The blood of Christ shed for you. *(all sharing in drinking of the cup)*

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION HYMN

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

ELW 343 Vs. 1,6

My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
me, love to the love - less shown that they might
love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt.
Music: John Ireland, 1879–1962

LOVE UNKNOWN
6 6 6 4 4 8

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.

BLESSING

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543 Vs. 1-3

1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love’s bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son’s sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it’s pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

AR HYD Y NOS
 84 84 88 84

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY MARCH 14, 2021

Church phone number 739-3348 and email office@flcff.org

Don't Forget Return to Daylight Savings Time

The flowers on the altar are given by Betsy Muehlhausen and Bonnie Jimmerson in remembrance of their sister Julie Jimmerson.

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Neil & Madeline Herman for all of their First Lutheran friends.

Please keep the family and friends of Helen Pederson in your prayers. Helen passed away on March 7.

Today, Sunday, March 14 American Legion Rib Drive Thru Meal 10:45 am until the food is gone! The Fellowship Committee has ordered more meals than those reserved, so even if you didn't reserve a meal, be sure to stop by. Free will donation.

In-Person Worship has started, maximum number allowed at this time is 75. Worship will continue to be combined with Augustana, and will be broadcast on the radio and YouTube. **Thank you** to all of our worship participants – the ushers, sound and video operators, and musicians!

Coming up this week:

- Wednesday, March 17 -FLY K-6 watch for info.
- Wednesday, March 17 at 5:00 pm Small Group Hosanna Handbells rehearsal.
- Wednesday, March 17 at 6:00 pm in-person Lenten Service (up to 75), and also on-line. NO Zoom gathering for 7th & 8th grade Confirmands, rather Confirmands are reminded of the requirement to attend Lenten services either in-person or online.
- Thursday, March 18 at 12:00 pm Mutual Ministry in Staff Conference Room.
- Thursday, March 18 at 4:30 pm FLY 7-12 "Among Us" On-Line Game Night. Calie will send a link.

Lenten services, with Holden Evening Prayer, continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm through March 24. Our Lenten theme is "Affirming our Baptism". In-person and live stream to the church website. Confirmands are required to attend in person or on the live stream, and to write about the service in their Lenten Musings.

Palm Sunday Celebration Walk Thru at 10:30 am on March 28 is being planned! This event will be in the lower-level parking lot, and is for all ages!! **Update!** Trowbridge Creek Zoo will be bringing some special guests!!!!

Spring Flowering Plants will be used to decorate the church at Easter. If you would like to purchase a plant, please send a check for \$20 to the office. Those purchasing a plant may take it home after Easter Sunday.

FLY 7-12 "March Into Spring" Snowman Building Contest due date has been extended through March 31!!!! All FLY 7-12 students are asked to build a snowman, either outside with real snow, or inside with craft supplies, and submit a picture to Calie before March 31. Prizes for each category: Best Dressed, Most Spring Like, Funniest. Questions? Contact Calie.

Sound/Video Operators Needed! Please contact the church office if you are interested in receiving training to run the sound board or camera during worship! Thank you.

OLV Walleye Fish Fry will be a Drive-Thru this year, Fridays through March 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Order at the main door – to go orders only. \$12.00 Adults, extra fish \$3.00.

New AA meeting in Underwood meets on Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Sverdrup Lutheran Church, 209 Southern Avenue. Church COVID restrictions apply. This is an open 12 step/traditions study.

Aspire Women's Event – an evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music on Saturday, May 1 at 6:00 pm at Harvest Outreach Church in Wahpeton. Please contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in attending.

Save the Date:

- **June 11 – Relay for Life.** Contact Sue at 218 770-5156 for more information or to join the First Lutheran team.
- **All Church Campout** at Fossen Woods coming this Fall. More info to come.
- **150th Anniversary of First Lutheran** coming up in 2022! Contact Pastor Gretchen if you would like to join a planning task force.

Financial Update: As of March 8, 2021, year-to-date revenue: \$105,820, year-to-date budget \$91,024, last year: \$74,915.