

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 14, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

**In-person worship has resumed at First English in a hybrid format (incorporating online and in-person leadership).  
If you are planning to return in person and no longer wish to receive these bulletins, please let Caitlyn know.**

**Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!**

Please email Caitlyn in the office at [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

**Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!**

+1 301 715 8592 US  
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281  
Password: 408299

**GATHERING**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	“Ricercar”	- J.K.F. Fischer
	“My Faith Look Up to Thee”	- Wm. D. Gudger, <i>arr.</i>
	“What God Ordains Is Good Indeed”	- F.W. Marpurg and Johann Pachelbel

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion, confessing our sin.

*Brief silence:*

Gracious God, fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**HYMN/PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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## 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

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**  
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### THE WORD

#### FIRST READING 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.*

<sup>4</sup>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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22** *read responsively*

<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.

**SECOND READING** *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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel: **God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,\* so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** (John 3:16)

### GOSPEL      John 3:14-21

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the third chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>"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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN      "God Loved the World"**

### 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

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, let us pray to our loving God for the needs of the world.

That we, the church, may look with faith at our crucified and risen Lord, and in the midst of suffering know eternal life, let us pray: **Have mercy, O God.**

That we may travel the next leg of the pandemic wilderness journey with compassion for ourselves and for others and patience with discomfort, let us pray: **Have mercy O God.**

That people who are hungry, who experience homelessness, who cannot work, or who have more challenges than we can name receive what they need today, let us pray: **Have mercy, O God.**

That nations experiencing war, terrorism, or famine, especially Myanmar, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Nigeria, receive the things that make for peace, let us pray: **Have mercy, O God.**

That workers in hospitality and food service industries find paths to renewed business and employment, let us pray: **Have mercy, O God.**

That when we experience controversies God would direct our energy and attention to that which is most profitable for serving our neighbors, let us pray: **Have mercy, O God.**

That in giving thanks for those who have died in Christ, (especially)...we may be renewed in resurrection hope, let us pray; **Have mercy, O God.**

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

## OFFERING PRAYER

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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people do give you thanks, saying:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness. Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love. 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. 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. With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love. With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Finally, as Jesus has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

#### **LAMB OF GOD**

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 your peace, Amen.**

#### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts, with thanksgiving.

#### **SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT**

#### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, you feed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us through these forty days, that we may hunger for justice, make peace with our neighbors and the world you have made, and praise you with grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### HYMN/RECESSION

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” - Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus

### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Mollie Hibbs	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Jeanne Graff	<b>Reader</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Crucifer</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Holly Schubert	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Ushers</b>
Jack and Amy Beiler	<b>Counters</b>

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.*

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 3/15	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 3/16	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 3/17	12:00 PM	In-Person Midweek Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church
	7:00 PM	Online Book or Bible Study (details below)
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 3/18	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 3/20	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Next week, Sunday, March 21, we will be adding a sung hymn back into the in-person worship service.** This hymn will be sung at the end of service. We will continue to follow all CDC guidelines regarding masks and distancing. Thank you!

**We are planning for Holy Week and Easter Services!** If you are planning on attending in-person worship on Easter Sunday, please RSVP by calling the church office or signing up on the google form:

<https://forms.gle/MWnuBTGnOSWky4o99> We are trying to arrange enough seating! Thank you!

**Sunday is the last day to place your order for Easter flowers.** Please use the sign-up sheet posted in the Social Hall or email [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) to order.

## **Lenten Observance with Butler Area Lutheran Ministries**

**Wednesdays at 12 pm:** In-person midweek worship at Trinity Lutheran Church (which has the largest sanctuary and best opportunity for social distancing). These services will also be streamed on YouTube and reposted for later viewing.

**Wednesdays at 7 pm:** Online book or Bible study via Zoom. Two options!

**Book Study:** Samuel Wells' *The Power and the Passion: Six Characters in Search of Resurrection*.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965238272?pwd=WVJDWDRiS2hUOS9pWENUakNYL0tRUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 6523 8272

Passcode: 752264

**Bible Study:** Ecclesiastes.

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96973039713>

Meeting ID: 969 7303 9713

### **Call for photographs!**

On Palm Sunday (March 28) we remember how a crowd strew palm branches and cloaks before Jesus' path into Jerusalem. Help us mark the festival by sending Pr. Kimberly pictures of your driveway, road, or a "path" that is special to you. If you like you can include a picture of yourself holding a sign that says, "Hosanna in the highest."

### **PRAYERS**

Scott Hainley, the family of Edna Hartman, the family of Gina Ambrosio, Marc and family, Hazel Warheit, Eleanor Roth, the family of Gene Fozard, David and Michele, the Jones family, the family of Jean Baldauf, Jamie Goehring, Jason Beckwith, and Devin, Codi, Savannah, Alyssa & Ethan, Rachel Faulkner, Graham Cannon, the family of Pastor Christine and Mark Rotella, Dewey Miller, Debbie Damiano, Frida Nelson, Pam and children, the family and friends of Jake, the family of Marian Boltz, the family of Zack, Sue Morrow, Joan, Joey Lash, Andrea Dubler, Janice Critchlow, Pastor Karl Schoch, Anne Ferguson, the family of Dan Hanczar, Jeanette Cunningham, Marsh Miller, Ida Miller, Helen Wagner, the Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Tad & Shirley Sellers, Crystal, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, the family of Edgard Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Ralph D'Antonio.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*A new covenant written on the heart*

**Psalms 51:1-12**

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

*Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*

**John 12:20-33**

*The grain of wheat dying in the earth*