



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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4th Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Minister
Musicians

Rev. Diana Edis
Sheila Seidemann

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: [St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert](#). You do not have to have a Facebook account to access that worship. You may also access this worship service on our You Tube channel as soon as it is uploaded at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY5NIJmPn41_R5_Xahok_w?view_as=subscriber

Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. 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.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: Salvation Army – Lieutenant Dawn Butt and Lieutenant Geoff Butt

Synod Parishes: Faith Lutheran in Powell River – Rev. Paula Sampson (Anglican) – Interim, Our Savior's Lutheran in Prince George – Rev. Fleming Blishen

Anglican/Lutheran Joint Prayers: ACC: The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop & the people & clergy of the Diocese of Montreal. ELCIC: Bishop Jason Zinko, the people & rostered ministers of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod.

Discipleship Opportunities

1. Our Wednesday evening Lenten worship will join us again with Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Prince George. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer. We will gather on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 and using Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88541839757> Meeting ID: 885 4183 9757

2. The Pastor will be Public by Zoom every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30AM. You may call in from your home or cell phone to 1-778-907-2071 without the need for a computer or you can join by computer, tablet, or smart phone by either clicking the link below or by typing it into your browser.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222984486?pwd=OHFIcWZySkR1dHNpekIqMzU4RIJWUT09>
Meeting ID: 872 2298 4486 Password: 263906

3. Our Lenten devotional is based on a book entitled *Queers the Word: a 40 day Devotional for LGBTQ+ Christians* by Shannon Kearns. Although the devotional centers the LGBTQ+ community, allies are also welcomed and encouraged to attend. This is a family friendly study. We will meet Monday evenings at 7:00 by Zoom beginning February 15 and continuing to Holy Week. You may join the Zoom Meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81341744134?pwd=WC9WcHJqU3hncThieW00bGZuZlRxdz09> or you may dial in at: +1 778 907 2071 Canada
Meeting ID: 813 4174 4134 Passcode: 379918

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* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

Announcements
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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Gathering Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

No. 611

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

L: 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

Pg. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.
 Lord, have mer - cy.
 For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

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.**

Our first reading is from Numbers, beginning at the 21st chapter

21:4-9

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.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

We read Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 responsively: (*leader reads the light print, congregation reads the bold*)

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
 that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
 gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west,
 from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, LORD,

for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Our second reading is from Ephesians, beginning at the 2nd chapter

2:1-10

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.

L: The word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Pg. 151

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel according to John, beginning at the 3rd chapter

3:14-21

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."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World

No. 323

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

Confession of faith

Apostles' Creed

Pg 105

**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 power of 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: (petition end: Hear us, O God.
(petition response: **Your mercy is great.**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our mailbox. You can send e-transfers to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca. You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps. We can be found there at St.Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

Offering Prayer

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we 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.**

Blessing

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
 2 How can we tell of a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
 3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
 dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
 one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
 pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
 gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the
 light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a
 sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
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Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.