

**Service of the Word**  
**Sunday, March 14**

*Fourth Sunday in*  
*Lent*

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.  
**Amen.**

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

Faithful God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**  
**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**  
**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**  
**We place our own needs before those of our neighbours.**  
**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**  
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.  
Hear the truth that God proclaims:  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.  
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN – Change My Heart, O God (ELW 801)**

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.  
You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

*Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953 Music: Eddie Espinosa  
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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**

## **CHILDREN’S TIME**

### **KYRIE**

Ubi caritas et amor  
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est

*Text: Latin, 9th Century. Music: Jacques Berthier. Copyright 1979 Les Presses de Taizé.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L** The Lord be with you.

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

**L** 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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

A reading from Numbers

<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.**

L Please join me in reading the Psalm responsively by verse, beginning and ending with the refrain.

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

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

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.**

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

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

A reading from Ephesians

<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 God 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 and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come God might show the immeasurable riches of God's 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 God 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**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

[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.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY – JESUS LOVES ME! ELW 535**

Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.

#### *Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! he who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in. *Refrain*

Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.  
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868  
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Adam Krentz, Angelika, and Elaine, and Ken on piano

## **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.

*A brief silence.*

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world, that in all places your love might be made know in all that we say and in all that we do. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture

spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Strengthen the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought; bring justice and peace to places where the earth's resources are not shared fairly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant. Give healing to those who are sick, especially Gord and all those we name before you now.... Give comfort to those who mourn.... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with the mercy and love that you have shown us; stir us up to share that mercy and love in this community. Give us a spirit of hospitality and generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As the first year of this pandemic has passed and we continue to step forward into an uncertain yet hopeful future, help us to be patient, to act in the best interests of others, and to be open to the ways that you call us to be the church even now. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call your daughters and sons to service and leadership among your people. Bless the people we have chosen to serve on council, and guide them to inspire us in our mission and service. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with them and with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. 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**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Even in different places and even in different times we are gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. So as one people, we pray as Jesus taught:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.  
**Amen**

## **SENDING HYMN – SHOUT TO THE LORD**

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like You.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am  
never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands;  
forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

*Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965*

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## **DISMISSAL**