

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024

Worship Focus
Rethinking the Solution to Sin

**Rethinking
Religion**

Calvary Lutheran Church
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Order of Service for FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Order of Service

Common Service

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

409 – Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent



whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
pent - ant vow, as we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -



from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less death has brought us
hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, on - ly what your
from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSION

Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father,

I confess that I am by nature sinful

and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

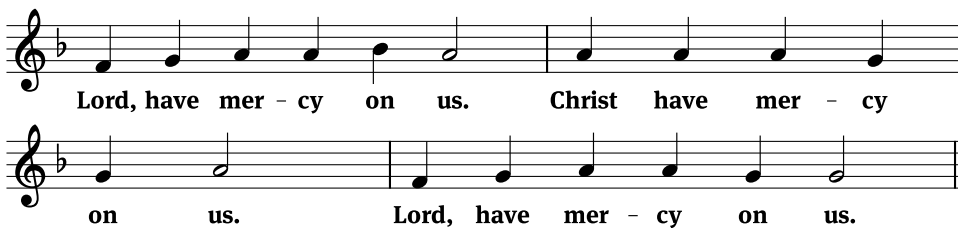
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

But I am truly sorry for my sins,

and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:

Lord have mercy on me a sinner.

LORD HAVE MERCY *(Kyrie)*



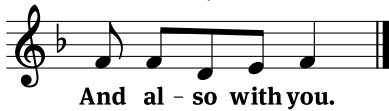
ABSOLUTION

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



Let us pray. Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated



✠ The Word ✠

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

The LORD promised a solution for the bite of venomous snakes. That solution perhaps seemed nonsensical. Yet, all those who trusted God's promise lived.

^{NUMBERS 21:4}They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The 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.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So 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.

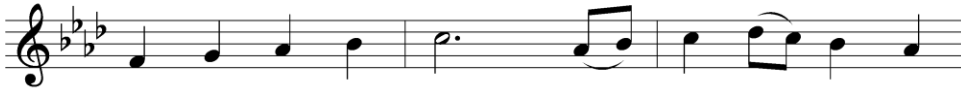
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32



1 How blest are those the LORD for - gives; how
 2 I si - lent - ly con - cealed my guilt, but
 3 I then con - fessed my sin to you, my
 4 Let all the faith - ful pray to you while
 5 You hide me, LORD; you hold me fast in



glad they are to hear their sin is gone, their
 then I groaned all day: your heav - y hand, like
 griev - ous guilt and shame, and you for - gave my
 you may still be found; you place them safe a -
 all ad - ver - si - ty, sur - round - ing me with



guilt a - toned, their rec - ord clean and clear.
 sum - mer heat, took all my strength a - way.
 wick - ed - ness by your most gra - cious name.
 hove the flood, se - cure on high - er ground.
 faith - ful love and songs of vic - to - ry.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

God's solution to sin is offered by grace and received through faith.

EPHESIANS 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 10For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the announcement of the Gospel the congregation responds:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to you, O Christ!

✠ The Confession of Faith ✠

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

570 – God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessèd Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

✠ Sermon ✠

John 3:14-21

Late Night Conversations: Nicodemus Meets Jesus

Sermon notes:

Stand

✘ Praise and Prayers ✘

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MUSICAL OFFERING

We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.

Offerings can be given in any of these ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You may remain seated for prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God would draw us into His light, exposing wherever we, like His people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against Him; and that in repentance we might look to His Son lifted up on the cross and be saved from His righteous wrath, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the missionaries of our Church as they go to the ends of the earth with the Gospel, that many may hear of God's love in Christ Jesus and be saved through faith in Him, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the authorities God has set over us for our good, [*especially _____,*] that He would bless and sustain them with all they need to govern wisely in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Holy Spirit would teach us to hear in the Old Testament the promises and pictures of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who was lifted up on the cross as Moses once lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in body, mind or soul, [*especially _____,*] that they would be hid in the shelter of Christ, our light and salvation; and that God would keep them from falling into faithless fear in their day of trouble, upholding them in His peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For us and all Christians, that by the Spirit of God we would not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds, but be His workmanship in Christ Jesus, walking in the good works He has prepared for us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

519 – There Is a Redeemer



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in — that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Stand

SENDING PRAYER

Almighty God, we praise you for the gracious rule of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let his kingdom come to us and all people so that the whole earth may know his saving help and be filled with your glory. through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

813 – He Will Hold Me Fast



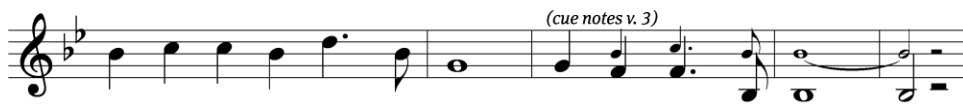
1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;



when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
pre-cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



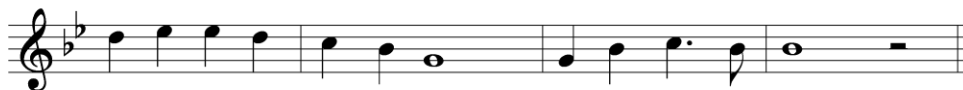
I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast



for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain 2X)



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Be seated

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Hymn 409 – Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-1498; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-1896, alt.

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745;

Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Scripture references: Heb 12:1-3; Isa 50:4; 53:6; Jn 3:14; 6:40

Text and music: public domain

Psalms 32B

Text: Michael D. Schultz ©2021 Northwestern Publishing House

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, ed. John

Wyeth;

Setting: Jack Grotenhuis ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Hymn 570 – God Loved the World So That He Gave

Text: Heiliges Lippen-und Hertzens-Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr.

August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Scripture references: Jn 3:16; Eph 2:19,20; Jn 3:17; Mt 9:2; Gal 3:26,27

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 519 – There Is a Redeemer

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

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Music: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

Scripture references: Jn 3:16; Gal 3:13; Jn 1:29,36; Job 19:25-27

Text and music: ©1982 Birdwing Music (ASCAP) Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP)

Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing (ASCAP) (adm. at CaptiolCMGPublishing.com)

Hymn 813 – He Will Hold Me Fast

Text: Ada Habershon, 1861-1918, sts. 1,2; Matt Merker, b. 1984, sts. 1,2, alt., st.3

Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984

Scripture references: Ps 149:4; Php 1:6; Ps 139:9,10; Mt 14:22-33; Jude 24,25

Text (sts. 1,2): public domain

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Prayer of the Day

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year B

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