

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 11, 2018

Worship Focus

Seriously! – The Cross is our Joy



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

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OPENING HYMN

288 - The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who
 3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - eous - ness To
 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From
 5 It bears to all the ti - dings glad And



sent his Son to save our race, Pro -
 made the a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice And -
 robe our souls in roy - al dress; From
 sin and Sa - tan and the grave; It
 bids their hearts no more be sad; The



claims how Je - sus lived and died That
 calls the souls with guilt op - pressed To
 all our guilt it brings re - lease And
 works the faith which firm - ly clings To
 wea - ry, bur - dened souls it cheers And



we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
 come and find e - ter - nal rest.
 gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
 all the trea - sures which it brings.
 ban - ish - es their guilt - y fears.

6 May we in faith its message learn
 Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
 May we in faith its truth confess
 And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.
 Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochoheim, 1628.

INVOCATION

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



Congregation A - - men.

M 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.

C 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*)



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

M 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.



C: A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



M Let us pray. Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Numbers 21:4-9

The Israelites complained until God sent them something to complain about! Then, prompted by grace alone, God also provided a cure in a bronze snake on a cross. Though looking made no sense, those who looked in faith were healed. The cross was their joy!

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; ⁵ 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!”

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

⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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, he lived.

PSALM

Psalm 38

Refrain Tune: Patricia Craig. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Psalm Tone: Paul Bunjes. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Refrain



O LORD, do not rebuke me in your | anger*
or discipline me | in your wrath.

For your arrows have | pierced me,*
and your hand has come down up | on me.

My guilt has over | whelmed me*
like a burden too heav | y to bear.

Refrain

All my longings lie open before | you, O LORD;*
my sighing is not hid | den from you.

I wait for | you, O LORD;*
you will answer, O | Lord my God.

Come quickly to | help me,*
O Lord my | Savior.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON Ephesians 2:4-10

Our natural condition is “dead in sins”. Our condition with Christ is “alive”. In between dead and alive stands the cross. Therefore, we look not to our own ingenuity, but to the cross and there we find the joy of salvation.

EPHESIANS 2:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY

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. (John 3:16)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the announcement of the Gospel the congregation responds:



GOSPEL John 3:14-21

In his evening discussion with Nicodemus Jesus alluded to the bronze snake when speaking about his own suffering and death. The cross is unpleasant, but only at the cross can we begin to fathom the depth of God’s love... therefore, rejoice in the cross!

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

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:



CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

391 - 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
5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



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
trou - bled heart can cheer; Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive,
him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.
Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.
soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

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

Text: *Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: *St. CRISPIN* (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

SERMON

John 3:16

God Loved the World THIS Much!

PRAISE AND PRAYER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

C: 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: 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." The score ends with a double bar line.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the temporal and eternal needs of both the Church and the world.

For bold, unwavering trust in God's grace, that we may rejoice in all the good gifts from above that we neither merit nor deserve, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His Gospel Kingdom extended to all nations, to the very ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the president, Congress and Judiciary of the United States; for the governor and legislature of this state; and for all government agencies, civil servants, judges and officers of the law, that peace, security and justice may be preserved, allowing freedom and opportunity to share the Good News of the message of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, [*especially* _____,] that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who mourn the loss of family and friends, [*especially for* _____,] that they may find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, God of heaven and earth, merciful and gracious, holy and loving, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our once-for-all sacrifice for sin. Remember not our sins, but forgive, renew and strengthen us to fight the good fight of the faith. Protect us from the assaults and temptations of the devil, the world and even our own sinful flesh. Grant us repentance and faith, holy lives to match godly intentions, and perseverance until You return or call us home, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

SERMON HYMN

384 - By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less;
 2 By grace God's Son, our on-ly Sav-ior,
 3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom-ise
 4 By grace to tim-id hearts that trem-ble,
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy-ing;



My soul, be-lieve and doubt it not. Why wa-ver
 Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be-
 When you are by your sins op-pressed, When Sa-tan
 In trib-u-la-tion's fur-nace tried— By grace, de-
 In Je-sus' prom-ise I re-joice. For though I



at this word of prom-ise? Has Scrip-ture ev-er
 cause of your own mer-it That Je-sus died your
 plagues your trou-bled con-science, And when your heart is
 spite all fear and trou-ble, The Fa-ther's heart is
 know my heart's con-di-tion, I al-so know my



false-hood taught? So then this word must true re-
 soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a-
 seek-ing rest. What rea-son can-not com-pre-
 o-pen wide. Where could I help and strength se-
 Sav-ior's voice, My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob-tain.
 lone, That brought him from his heav'n-ly throne,
 hend God by his grace to you did send.
 cure If grace were not my an-chor sure?
 flown Since I am saved by grace a-lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709-61, abr.; tc. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697-1775, alt.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M 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.



Benediction

CLOSING HYMN

747 - There Is a Redeemer



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



Son, Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah,
names, Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah,
face; There I'll serve my King for - ev - er

Refrain



Ho - ly One.
Hope for sin - ners slain. Thank you, O my
In that ho - ly place.



Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



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

Tune: THERE IS A REDEEMER (65 85 and Refrain)

Text, Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946 © 1982 Birdwing Music/BMG Songs, Inc./Ears to Hear Music, admin.
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After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

THOSE
WHO DO
WHAT IS
TRUE
COME TO
THE
LIGHT...



JOHN 3:21, NRSV

Lent and Holy Week



On Wednesday evenings during Lent, together with Holy Week, we will focus on Jesus, Our Great High Priest. Dates and themes for those services are as follows:

<u>Wednesday/Festival (Date)</u>	<u>Worship Theme</u>
Ash Wednesday (February 14)	Jesus Is Our Great High Priest
Lenten Service (February 21)	Jesus Is Our Perfect High Priest
Lenten Service (February 28)	Jesus Is Our Compassionate High Priest
Lenten Service (March 7)	Jesus Is Our Self-Sacrificing High Priest
Lenten Service (March 14)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar
Lenten Service (March 21)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests
Palm Sunday (March 25)	Jesus Is Our Priest After the Order of Melchizedek
Maundy Thursday (March 29)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Is Mediator of the New Covenant
Good Friday (March 30)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Is Better Than Any Other High Priest
Easter Sunday (April 1)	Jesus Is Our Eternal High Priest