

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

Worship Focus
“I Promise” – Undeserved Gift

...by grace
you
have
been
saved...
*Ephesians 2:5,
NRSV*

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Order of Service for THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Common Service

Christian Worship, p. 15

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OPENING HYMN

379 – Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures. He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and por - tion be
grace has brought me safe thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.
As long as life en - dures.
And grace will lead me home.
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.
Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

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.



C: And al - so 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.



C: A - men.



✠ The Word ✠

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

The Bronze Snake was an undeserved solution to the consequences of Israel's complaining.

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.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

In one of the clearest expressions of the Good News, Paul explains the undeserved nature of God's gift of salvation.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the announcement of the Gospel the congregation responds:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

In another of the clearest expressions of the Good News, Jesus proclaimed the love of God in Christ Jesus!

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:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION 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.

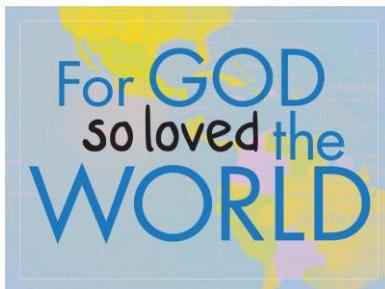
The third day he rose again from the dead.

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 ✠ Ephesians 2:1-7

God's Amazing Grace Brings Promised Change

Sermon notes:

✠ Praise and Prayers ✠

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.

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 three ways:

1. Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary
2. On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>
3. On your phone with the Give+ app (a Vanco product)

Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org>

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord God, in these Lenten days we pray that You would draw us into Your light. Expose where we, like Your people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against You, that in repentance we might look to Your Son lifted up on the cross for our salvation and be saved from Your righteous wrath. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You led the saints by the straight way of faith in Your Son until they reached Your heavenly city. As we join in their eternal thanksgiving for Your steadfast love and wondrous works to the children of men, we pray that You would faithfully lead us to our heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, You have made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins. We pray that Your Spirit would be at work within us, that we may not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds but be Your workmanship in Christ Jesus, walking in the good works You have prepared for us to do in Him. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord God, You have set our federal, state, and local governments as authorities over us for our good. Keep us, we pray, from speaking against them and so against You. Bless and sustain them with all they need to govern us, that we might be ruled wisely and in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, You are our light and our salvation. Hide in Your shelter all who suffer in body, mind or soul. Keep them in their day of trouble from falling into faithless fear, and uphold them with Your peace in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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.**



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.; tr. composite.

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

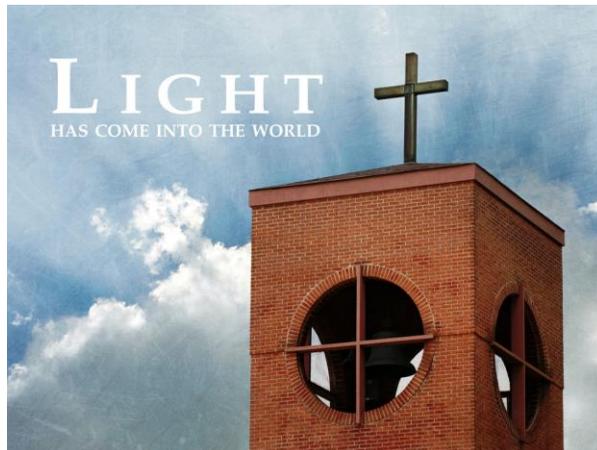
✘ Sending ✘

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, 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.



CLOSING HYMN

771 – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God;
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ;



I want to fol-low Je-sus.
 I want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world;
 Clear Sun of Right-eous-ness, shine on my path;
 When we have run with pa-tience the race,



The star of my life is Je-sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all; The



night and the day are both a-like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

Tune: HOUSTON (10 7 10 8 and Refrain)

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