



FOURTH SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT

**March 14, 2021**  
**ONLINE WORSHIP**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,  
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith  
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
High School Leaders: ..... Ryan & Addie Thompson  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

**Introduction to the day**

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.

## PRELUDE

“Variations on Ubi Caritas”

Denis Bédard

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound - ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

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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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

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.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

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

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



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.

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

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

The holy gospel according to John.

### **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.

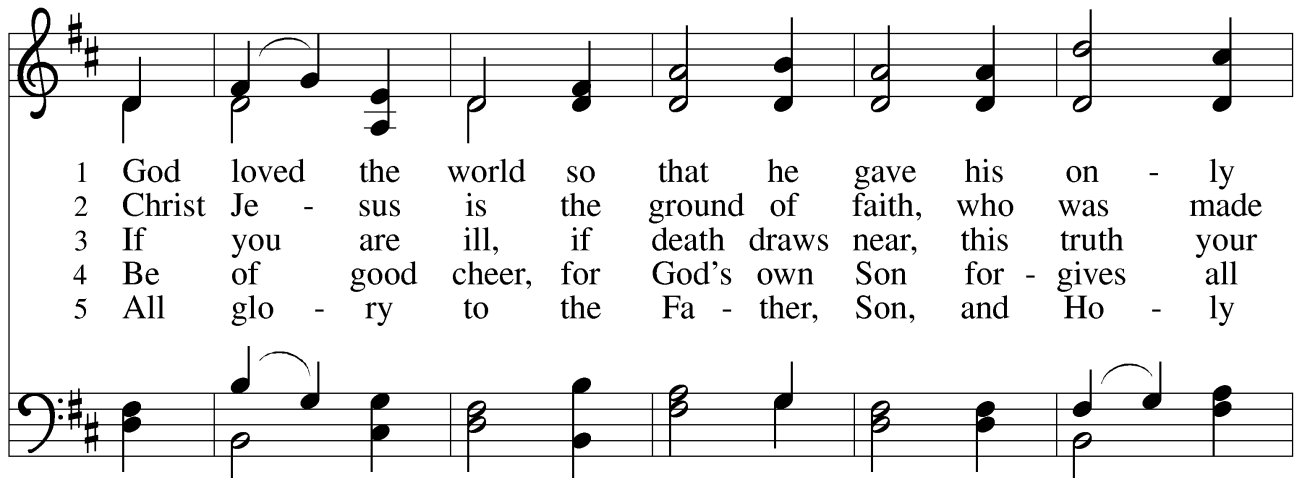
<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only 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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**


## **SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## God Loved the World



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.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Lord, in your mercy. **Receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# Holy, Holy, Holy

*Santo, santo, santo*

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

extracted from 3/11/18

"God So Loved the World"

(Stainer)

Beth Ballegeer, John Borton, Deb Borton-McDonough, Ryan Thompson  
Vocal Quartet

***Communion*** – *Communion is shared among us in people's homes*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

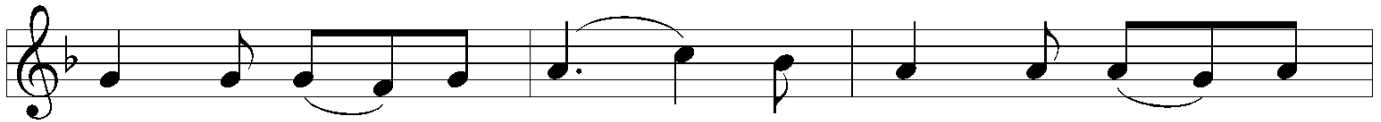
God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

# SENDING SONG

## By Grace We Have Been Saved



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and  
2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's  
3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through  
4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank  
5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by  
plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -  
Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ  
God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus  
va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.  
filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.  
died for us. We gained by God's own loss.  
rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.  
feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

### *Refrain*



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain  
Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS. North American traditional

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in A minor”

J. S. Bach

### 2/28/2021

General Fund	\$ 1,650.00
Shared Pregnancy	\$ 25.00
Painting Fund	\$ 1,100.00
Parish House Project	\$ 1,078.45
Ken Whitmyer Memorial	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,903.45
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 1,215.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,118.45</b>

### 3/7/2021

General Fund	\$ 750.00
Easter Food Drive	\$ 120.00
Shared Pregnancy	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00
Parish House Project	\$ 50.00
Painting Fund	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,070.00
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 3,325.00
Building	\$ <u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,420.00</b>

### Year to Date

### January 1- February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Income	\$ 48,741
Expenses	<u>\$ 46,151</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,590

If you have the ability to support the church's work during this time, please do so as you normally would. You can mail your check to Faith Lutheran, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos MI 48864 or consider signing up for "Simply Giving", our online offering tool. Contact [jon.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:jon.harrison@comcast.net) for more information on how to sign up.

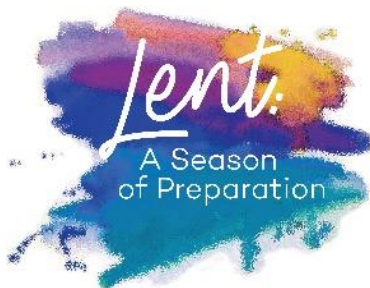
**You are invited to join us for the Zoom Coffee Hour after worship.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/4982126146>

Meeting ID: 498 212 6146

There is no password needed.



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES

Beginning on Wednesday, February 24, we will livestream weekly 7:00 PM Lenten services through our Facebook site. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for these services. Katie will forward you a digital copy of this prayer service. The messages at each of these services will come to us from Lutheran World Relief. Pastor Ellen's seminary colleague, Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zellar, has written a Lenten series called Season of Hope, which focuses on the work of Lutheran World Relief in the world. If you desire to make a special Lenten

offering to a worthy cause, we invite you to send a Lenten Offering to Lutheran World Relief.

<https://donate.lwr.org>

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