

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today's readings ultimately direct our gaze to the cross where in faith we find our health and salvation by God's grace, mercy and boundless love in Christ. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2021
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging in the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From 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. ⁵The 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." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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, ⁸And 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." ⁹So 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210314/playlist>

PSALM 107: 1-3, 17-22

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
- ²Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
- ¹⁷Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.
- ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.
- ²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.
- ²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in 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. ³All 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. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. With Christ ⁶God raised us up and enthroned us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ⁷so that in the ages to come might be shown the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not you own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not

the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God loved the world in this way, that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Those 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. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But 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.

Having read these readings, think of this:

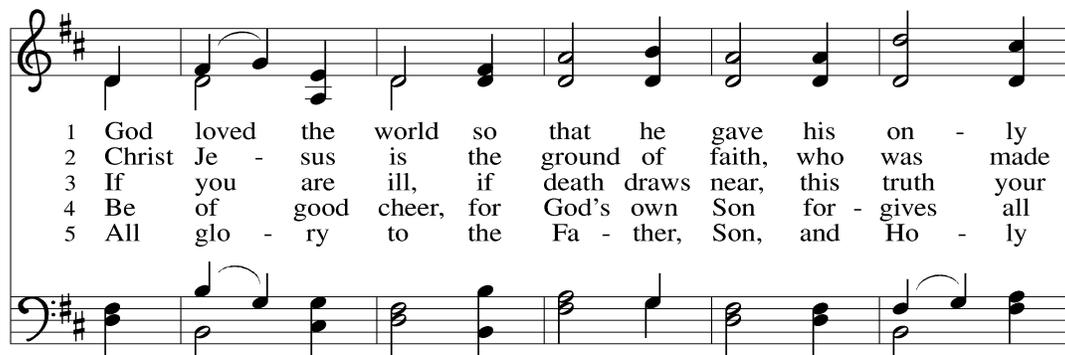
The writers of the New Testament sought in many ways to present the meaning of the crucifixion of Jesus, a tragic event that at first seems too horrible to have any meaning. The Gospel according to John here means to transform our horror into hope, borrowing an Old Testament image to do so. In Numbers, the people are dying and serpents are giving out this death. At God's command, the serpent on the pole, as if it were death enthroned, gives life. The people look and live. So, for us, the man executed on the cross gives life to the world. We all are dead in sin. Christ shares the worst of our deaths. Now, not by looking but by looking in faith, by trusting what God has done, we are made alive together with Christ. The Spirit, poured out in baptism, lifts us up together with Christ into life. God loves the world and, giving us that gift of love, enables us also to love others with our good works.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Fourth Sunday of Lent Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210314/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210314/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #323

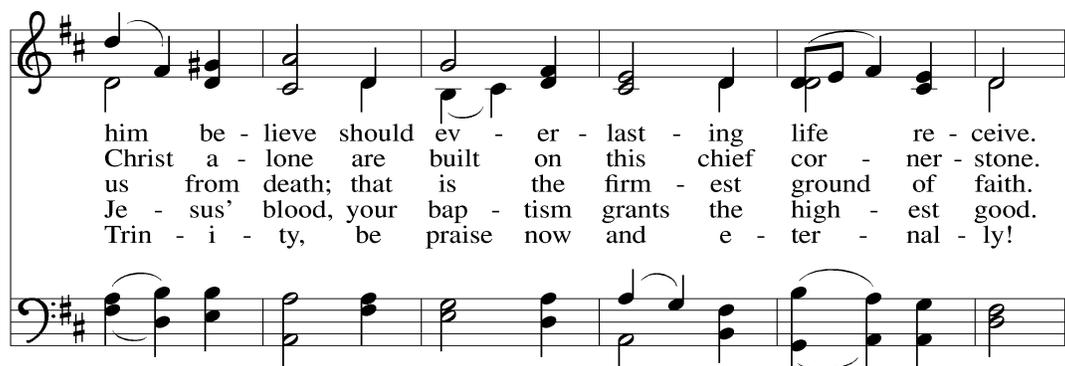
God Loved the World



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.

Then pray these intercessions:

On this fourth Sunday in Lent, let us pray to our loving God for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your mercy endures forever."

A brief silence.

O God, preserve your church through good times and bad. Empower pastors, missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and all ministries of service for their work throughout this pandemic. Bless Lutherans around the world, our ecumenical partners, and everyone preparing for baptism at Easter.

A brief silence.

O God our Redeemer, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

Continue your creation of this good earth. Nourish seas and rivers, and give water to thirsty lands. Nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures, and bless the fields being prepared for the growing season.

A brief silence.

O God our Creator, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

In Brazil and wherever Covid rages, send healing. In Myanmar and wherever tyranny rules, restore human rights. In Nigeria and wherever there is domestic terrorism, send concord. In Ethiopia and wherever there is bloodshed, bring peace. In Yemen and wherever people starve, give food and water. In the United States and wherever there is discrimination, inspire all residents to honor one another and to strive for justice. Prosper the work of those who care for victims of violence, and grant legislators wisdom in decision-making.

A brief silence.

O God our Protector, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

Give rest and welcome to migrants. Bring run-aways to places of safety. Protect all who are incarcerated. Provide caring families to children who seek adoption. Give a decent life to all who live on our streets.

A brief silence.

O God our Homeland, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

As you saved your people of old from snakebite, so now deliver all who suffer from disaster, hunger, disease, and despair, and those we name here before you: Judy Jaquette, John Showman, Grant Aldonis, Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Feulling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier and family, Maria Liwski, Tucker Dean and Lisa.

A brief silence.

O God our Savior, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

Shine light into our darkness, make night into a blessing, and in mercy hear the prayers of our hearts:

A longer time of silence.

O God our Friend, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

We praise you for all the saints who have lived and died in Christ, especially Patrick and Joseph, and we remember before you all who have died of Covid. At the end, bring us with them into life in your presence.

A brief silence.

O God our Comforter, receive our prayers:
your mercy endures forever.

To you, O God, our only God, we entrust all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our loving Lord.

Amen.

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20210314/playlist>

HYMN #779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

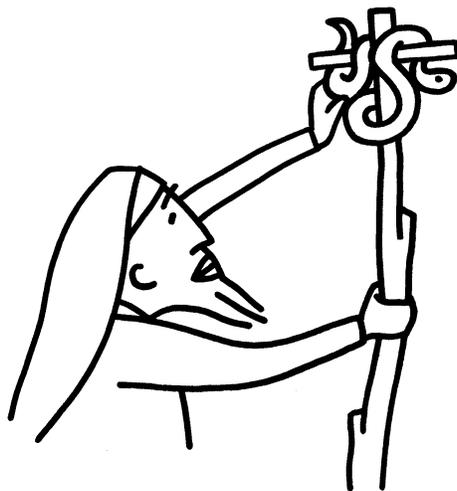
We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life. For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all. For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing, Holy God, now and forever.
Amen.



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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 107: 1-16. **Tuesday** 1 Corinthians 10:6-13. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, 461) Isaiah 60:15-22. **Thursday** Psalm 51:1-12. **Friday** (Joseph, Guardian of Jesus) Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a. **Saturday** John 12:1-11. **Fifth Sunday in Lent** (commemoration of Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, 1556) Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

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