

Divine Service
Fourth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 14, 2021

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

The Opening Hymn: 423 ss 1-3

1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace hath taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

The Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

Call to Confession

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

The Confession

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the LORD.

CONG: Who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

CONG: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

PASTOR: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; therefore we flee for refuge to your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, since you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

The Introit of the Day PSALM 27:1, 3-5

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

Gloria Patri

CONG: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

CONG: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect

PASTOR: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONG: Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: NUMBERS 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way.

5 And 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 loathe this worthless food."

6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

7 And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."

9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if

a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The Gradual HEBREWS 2:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Epistle: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world,
following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is
now at work in the sons of disobedience—
3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,
carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were
by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with
which he loved us,
5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive
together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the
heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable
riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is
not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for
good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should
walk in them.

The Verse JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Holy Gospel: ST. JOHN 3:14-21

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must
the Son of Man be lifted up,
15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the
world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever
does not believe is condemned already, because he has not
believed in the name of the only Son of God.
19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world,
and people loved the darkness rather than the light because
their works were evil.
20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and
does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.
21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it
may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in
God.”

Choir: “Glory Be To Jesus” 433 ss. 1-2 & 5-6

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood From His sacred veins!

2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

5. Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

6. Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood,
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

The Nicene Creed (We Confess Together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn: 421 ss. 1-5

1. Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

2. Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,

Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the tempter flee confounded.

3. If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure, Help me flee all thoughts impure,
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

4. Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me, By Your wounds, Lord is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your Cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation.

5. O my God, my Rock and Tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing Death has lost his power Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die, be my protection, Light and Life and Resurrection.

Sermon: "LOOK, BELIEVE AND LIVE" NUMBERS 21:4-9

The Offertory

CONG: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Closing Hymn: 420 ss. 1-7

1. Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death,
our foe,

Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of
woe,—

Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2. Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel
rod;

Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of
God!

Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3. Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all
be whole;

Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

4. Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with
shameful scorn,

And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou,
Lord, hast borne

That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory
crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

5. Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee That from pain I might
be free;

Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee,— Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6. Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it

patiently,

Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;

Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be
prevented.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7. Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep
and sore,

For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and
Thy dying,

For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on
high.

The Benediction

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord
make His face shine on you and be gracious
to you. The Lord look upon you with favor
and † give you peace.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Brock Abbott

Preacher: Pastor Bill Abbott

Videographer: Lucas Abbott