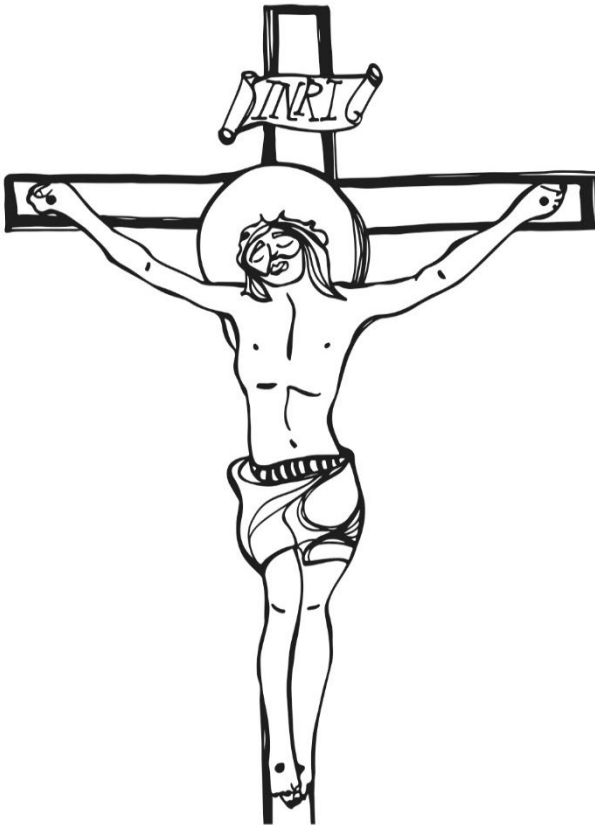


SUNDAY- MARCH 10, 2024 -9:00 AM



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR
INTERNS

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON
ZACH SMIRIS

ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 10, 2024 | Fourth Sunday in Lent | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

PRELUDE Barb Underwood

You are encouraged to use the time during the Prelude for quiet reflection and preparing for worship

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #324 - In the Cross of Christ I Glory

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C - Amen.

L - Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Holy God,

C - we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

L - Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

C - Amen

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

+ KYRIE pg. 138

+HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 139 *“Glory to God in the Highest...”*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, rich in mercy,

C: 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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: –*Great is the Lord
I Come to the Cross*

FIRST READING - Numbers 21:4-9

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.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

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—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your 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.

+LENTEN SENTENCE (pg. 142)

(sing) Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 3,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] 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. ¹⁶“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. 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.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Intern Zach Smirris

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #338 - *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

BENEVOLENCE – Summer Youth Programming

OFFERING –

MUSIC – *Walk by Faith*

OFFERTORY #186 “*Create in me....*”

THE PRAYERS (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**)

+THE LORD'S PRAYER (pg. 145) (right hand column)

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

C: Amen.

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #779 - Amazing Grace

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2024

SHARE: What are three things you are grateful for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 107:1-16, Thanksgiving for Deliverance

Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, Warnings from Israel's History

Wednesday, Isaiah 60:15-22, The Gathering of the Dispersed

Thursday, Psalm 51:1-12, Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

Friday, Hebrews 4:14-5:4, The Rest That God Promised

Saturday, John 12:1-11, Mary Anoints Jesus

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” – John 3:14-15

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.

- If you view yourself as redeemed, and if you say so, what do you like to emphasize? To whom? (Psa107:2)
- In Christ, how do being saved through faith and being created for good works harmonize together? (Eph 2:8, 9)
- What does it mean to you to love light rather than darkness and to “come to the light” each day? (John 3:19-20)

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. Amen.

BLESS: God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace. Amen.