Whoever believes in him is not condemned.

John 3:18

March 14, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Worship

First Lutheran Church 709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218 Washburn, North Dakota 58577 <u>www.flcwashburn.com</u>

AS WE GATHER

(Before coming to faith, we were dead in trespasses and sins. But while we were dead and helpless, God made us alive! In the Epistle, Paul writes that God saved us "being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us." But we have not simply been made physically well, like the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading, but we have been given eternal life. The central reason is that "by grace you have been saved through faith." We are His workmanship and in the light of Christ, it is obvious that the credit for whatever works we do must go to our gracious God. We are together with Christ and already, as it were, "with Him in the heavenly places." Now that's really living!)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

- C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: We are gathered together for worship in the name of the one God: Father, and of the Son, + and Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: In this season of Lent, let us draw near to the Lord and examine our hearts and minds for the ways in which we have fallen short of the glory of God. (Silence for self-reflection and examination)

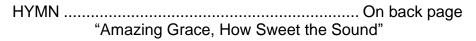
(Shence for sen-renection and examine

- P: Holy God,
- C: You sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. We confess that we have failed in many ways to follow him in our lives. We have forsaken the poor and hungry, we have neglected the sick and sorrowful, and we have looked out for our own needs rather than the needs of others. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to a new and right relationship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; all those who believe in Christ are living stones in his holy house. Hear his Word of forgiveness and be comforted by his love. You are made new again by the blood of Christ who gave himself for us so that we might be holy and precious in his sight. (Luke 20:17)
- C: Amen.

Greeting

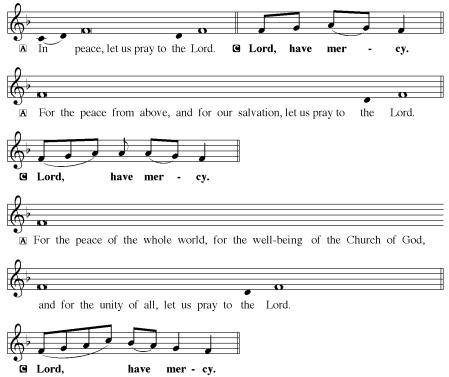
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who saves us through faith, the love of the Father who gifts us with every good gift, and the communion of the Holy Spirit who fills us with all wisdom, be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

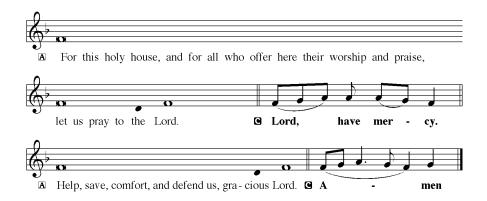


KYRIE

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.





SALUTATION



P: Let us pray:

C: God of mercy, renew us daily in the gift of baptism and remind us of the promise we have through your Son's cross. Let us always look to the cross as the sure and certain sign of forgiveness of sins, hope and healing in this life, and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

PSALM (Read responsively)Psalm 107:1-9 (No matter what condition of life we find ourselves in, God redeems us. If we are lost in the wilderness, because God is there with us and cares about us, we may cry out to the Lord and be delivered from distress. No matter how winding the wandering of life may seem, God is leading us by the straighter way — the way to himself.)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

- ² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble
- ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

- ⁵ hungry and thirsty,
 - their soul fainted within them.
- ⁶ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

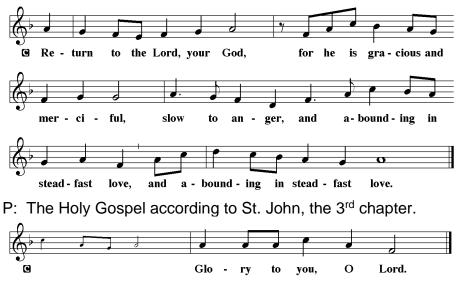
⁷ He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

- ⁸ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!
- ⁹ For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

have been for lack of endeavor, but there was simply nothing they could do to change their deadness. Where no amount of religion or industry could "raise their spirits," God, in his great grace, made them alive again in Christ. He gave salvation as a free gift, since no one could bring it about by will or work.)

¹You were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in 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 — ³among 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. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in 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 coming ages 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 a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

RETURN TO THE LORD



GOSPEL READINGJohn 3:14-21

(In the same way that Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, God has lifted up his own Son. He is elevated far above angelic beings such as the seraphim (Heb 1:4). We may confidently look up to him even in the depths of our sin. When we look above our condition and believe in the Son of man. the devil cannot triumph against us. We will not die in the wilderness of sin but instead have eternal life. "When the devil accuses us and says: 'You are a sinner; therefore you are damned,' then we can answer him and say: Because you say that I am a sinner, therefore I shall be righteous and be saved.' 'No,' says the devil, 'you will be damned.' 'No,' I say, 'for I take refuge in Christ, who has given Himself for my sins. Therefore, Satan, you will not prevail against me as you try to frighten me by showing me the magnitude of my sins and to plunge me into anguish, loss of faith, despair, hatred, contempt of God, and blasphemy")

¹⁴{Jesus said to Nicodemus,} "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 so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world. but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever 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. ¹⁹And 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. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But 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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



..... "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" HYMN. PRAYER What a Friend We Have in Jesus 439 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear! there trou-ble an - y - where? 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum-bered with a load of care? 0 0 'ry-thing to God in What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev prayer! the Lord in We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged- Take it to prayer. Pre-cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge- Take the Lord in it to prayer. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear-Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who all our sor - rows share? will Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer! Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness- Take it to the Lord in prayer. his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a so - lace there. In

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

SERMON	Pastor Chuck Mann
SPECIAL MUSIC	Choir

"Sometimes Alleluia"

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Said in unison)

God of love, you have provided for our every need from your abundant bounty. Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Place your hand over your heart and turn to your neighbor sharing the peace in this manner. No hand shaking.)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

BENEDICTION Psalm 32:10

P: 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

Numbers 6:24–26

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN On next page "Lift High the Cross"

DISMISSAL P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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<u>Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!</u>	
PASTOR	Pastor Chuck Mann
ACOLYTES	Alex Retterath & James Chrest
READER	Alli Sheldon
ORGANIST	Theresa Petersen
USHERS/GREETERS	Lee & Melissa Kugler
ALTAR GUILD	.Janet Hanson & Theresa Petersen
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATO	ORS Rick & LeAnn Richard

Lift High the Cross



5 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

© Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956 © Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 CRUCIFER

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³⁷⁷

Our Mission

"Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service."

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

God is rich in mercy, loves you greatly, makes you alive through Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5) and welcomes you to this time of worship and fellowship.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Wednesday, March 3rd, Attendance – 87 Facebook Online Viewing – 91 General Fund & Plate Giving - \$592.00

Sunday, March 7th, Attendance – 132 Facebook Online Viewing - 264 General Fund & Plate Giving - \$4,900.00

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Chuck if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Peggy Moran and family on the death of Peggy's father, Nels Narum. Funeral for Nels was this past Wednesday at Douglas, ND. May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

Flowers

Flowers today are from the funeral of Nels Narum.

Prayer Requests

Family of Nels Narum on his death, Mary Ann Monsebroten -Sister to Jackie Olson, Weldon Wagner - Brother to Arden Wagner, Cindy Thiel, George Sheldon, Haley Beaudry -Brother to Mac Beaudry, Kathy Solomonson, Mary Ann Beeks, Josiah Johnson - Brother to Steph Mann, Greg Merrill - Uncle to Steph Mann, Wayne & Cindy Vorland - Parents of Aaron Vorland, Shauntaye & Oaklynn Kopecky - Kurle family member, Mary Schulz, Ross Lorentzen, Gwen DeMontigny, Kayla Boger – Family member of Steve & Peggy Wollmuth, Keith Hammerbeck - Family friend of the Kugler's, Deborah Davenport – Mother of Laura Gardner's friend, Virgie Emineth, Cindv Delmonico - Mother to Melissa Kugler, Glenn Weist, Ruby from Pine Ridge, Claire Boucher - Friends of Aaron & Lexie Solomonson newborn, Jamie Baumann, James Tolbert. Brad Taylor - Friend of Pastor Chuck, Taylor Gardner, Harold Holtz, Elaine Renfrow - Mother to Lynette Sondrol, Sandi Femling – Cousin to Melanie Beckman, Laren Holznagel, Harlow Tatum – Daughter to Brea (Gutknecht) Tatum, Ruth Lund – Mother to Doddie Kuntz, Derek Laning, John Krebsbach - Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth - Brother to Jeneen Loe, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

Food Drive

Thank you everyone that brought food today to help The "Kindness Class" at Washburn School with their food drive.

Lenten Meals & Worship

Join us this Wednesday, March 17th for our Lenten meal. The Evangelism Committee will be serving hotdishes, salad and bars from 5:30 – 6:45 pm. Free-will offering. Money will be used for camperships for First Lutheran youth going to Camp of the Cross this summer. Join us after the meal for our Lenten Worship drama series, "How to be a Disciple: The Reflections of a Contemporary Twelve" at 7:00 pm with James the Less and Jude "On humility". Themes are: Pride, false humility, true humility.

Bell Choir

There will be no bell choir this Wednesday, March 17th.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet this Thursday, March 18th, at 9:30 am at the church. Sheila Link & Kathy Keller host.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have all articles for the April newsletter to the church office no later than noon this Friday, March 19th.

National Quilting Day

Saturday, March 20th, is National Quilting Day, a day to lift up the skill and craft of quilters across the United States. Thank you to the FLC Women that are involved in making LWR quilts, senior quilts, baby quilts and any other quilts you make. As a token of their thanks, LWR has a special gift to share with the quilters: the Quilt & Kit Affinity Pin! Go to lwr.org and find the article on National Quilting Day to be able to sign up to get your pin or call 800-597-5972. Each quilter needs to request their own and only one pin request per person.

Movie Night

FLCW (First Lutheran Church Women) will host a MOVIE NIGHT, Tuesday, February 23rd, at 7 pm. The movie is "THE EGG AND I". Very family friendly. It is 1 hour and 28 minutes long and popcorn will be provided. Bring your own drink. We are inviting families to this movie as it is part of a series. Every age will enjoy. Be there or you'll miss fabulous popcorn and fun.

Our Daily Bread

The March/April/May edition of *Our Daily Bread* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to use with your daily devotions.



Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteers are needed to help with the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th. If interested in helping out, please talk to Laura Gardner ASAP!

Easter Basket

There is an easter basket in the narthex for donations to help offset the cost of the easter egg hunt. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- 1. People to serve on the Endowment Committee. If interested please talk to Matt Gardner.
- 2. Anyone interested in serving on the Evangelism Committee. If interested contact Melanie Beckman.
- 3. Preschool VBS director needed. You would be provided with curriculum and volunteers. We just need someone to organize the details. Dates and times are June 1-4 from 9:00-10:30.
- 4. Preschool VBS volunteers. This program is during the work day, so if you are available to help please let us know!
- 5. Elementary VBS. I am sad to report that Camp of the Cross will not be coming to do VBS this year. Thank you to Melissa Rothe for stepping up and taking charge. We will need music people, craft people, game people and more. Please contact me if you would be interested in hopping on board! Dates and times are June 1-4 from 6:00-8:30. Thanks in advance! Stacy Boeshans 701-240-8012

LBW & WOV Hymnals

We will be ordering more LBW (green) and WOV (blue) hymnals. As of the printing of this bulletin we are looking at approximately 100 LBW at a cost of approximately \$32 per book and approximately 35 WOV at a cost of approximately \$15.75 per book. If you would like to help purchase any of these hymnals please talk to Jeannette in the church office. We may have a chance to purchase some from another church but how many and price is yet to be determined.

LBW books on the cart in the narthex are free for the taking.

Thank You

THANKS to the FLC Church Council, FLCW, Evangelism Committee, Men's Bible Study group, and an anonymous party, all registration fees will be covered for FLC campers to Camp of the Cross Ministries this summer. There is an early bird discount for registering with CCM by April 1, 2021. Please let Peggy Moran know by May 24, 2021, if you have campers registered so the funds can be sent to the camp before the camp season begins.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members that have Thrivent Choice Dollars to direct to an organization, you have until March 31st to do that before you lose last year's dollars.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- ⇒ Class: We are looking at how many would be interested in a class to be scheduled in the future in learning how to knit or crochet. Please contact Jeannette and specify which you would like to learn and stay tuned for time/date TBA.
- ⇒ Distribution of Shawls: There will be a sheet located on top of the prayer shawl box. It will have a place for the name of the person taking the shawl, number of shawls being taken and the recipient. You do not need to fill out all of it, please at least fill out the number so we know how many shawls we have been able to provide. If you would like us to add the recipient to the prayer chain, please include the name.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN			
TODAY		Bible Study Led by Cathy Sheldon	
	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	•	
		Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson	
	7:00 PM		
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting	
THES		5	
TUES.	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study Mommy's Group	
WED. 5.30	9:30 AM - 6:45 PM	Friendship Bible Study Lenten Meal Served by Evangelism	
0.00	0.1011	Committee	
		NO Bell Choir	
	7:00 PM 7:45 PM		
	7:45 PM		
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study	
FRI.	NOON	Newsletter Deadline	
SAT.	6:00 PM	Marriage Course	
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Bible Study Led by Cathy Sheldon	
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion	
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson	
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting	
	7:00 PM	AI-Anon Meeting	

Listening for the Promise WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

"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.'"- Numbers 21:8

How many of you like snakes? I know some people who have them as pets, and some people who are terrified of them. Yet in our scriptures, snakes are a symbol of evil from Genesis through Revelation. It was the snake who tempted Eve in Eden, and in Revelation, Satan is called the "serpent."

In Numbers, it says God sent serpents into the camp of his people, Israel. When you look at what preceded this terrible event, it's not hard to understand why. The Israelites were traveling toward the land God has promised them. The journey is difficult, and they are beset by lack of food, polluted water holes, epidemic diseases, and dissention within their ranks, and so they begin to grumble. Mind you, it hasn't been that long since they crossed the Red Sea – hardly time to forget what God could do with water.

They grumble and complain that they had it better back in Egypt. How quickly they forget the slavery, the forced labor, the beatings when the hot sun forced them to slow the pace of their work. God has fed them, given them water, and even speaks to them through Moses from the mountain. And they make all kinds of promises and seal it with blood. Then, just as soon as Moses is out of sight, they forget about all that God has done for them. They get drunk, make an idol and worship it while partying all night.

Sometimes things need to get worse before they get better. Sometimes it takes a crisis to help us understand that life with God is not about getting what we want but wanting what we've got. They forgot that God freed them from captivity, saved them from Pharoah's soldiers, brought them victory in battle, and gave them just laws to live by. He fed and watered them daily, protected them and led them by cloud and pillar of fire. But now God sends them serpents because they refuse to be a people of praise.

Fact is, many of us are snake-bitten for the same reasons. We've forgotten how to be a people of praise. This story from Numbers reminds us to look up and live. To look up with adoration to a God who is faithful in all his promises. To look up in confession, repenting of our ungrateful ways, and to look up in thanksgiving for all the blessings we take for granted. Amen.

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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound





Text: John Newton, 1725–1807 Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 NEW BRITAIN C M