

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING LITANY (adapted from Psalm 33)

Let your steadfast love come to us O God

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love

To deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine and plague

When the seas roar, when storms rage, when life is unpredictable

Let your steadfast love come to us O God

When our hearts are heavy from the cares of the world

Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield

Surely, our heart rejoices in you; for in your holy name we put our trust

Let your loving kindness, O Lord be upon us, even as we place our hope in you

Let your steadfast love come to us O God



"O God We Call" 1X (Songleader,)

O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from
deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you.

The image shows a musical score for the song "O God We Call". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the lyrics "O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from". The second system covers the lyrics "deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you." The music is written in a simple, accessible style, likely for a song leader.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

In the covenant made with a wilderness people, God has promised to be our God. In the new covenant of the Christ of the cross, God's promises are faithful and sure. We have been chosen for life! Trusting God's mercy and grace, we confess our sin.

"O God We Call" (Songleader)

God of covenant, You are the giver of life, of breath, of hope, of everything we need for life together. You have promised to be our God; you lead us from wilderness to promise; you give us all we need not only to survive, but to thrive, to live!

But we fail to trust you. We pretend we have control over our lives; that our success and accomplishments are due to our own work; so often our wealth—what we have to excess—is taken at the expense of others, the poor, the hungry, the powerless.

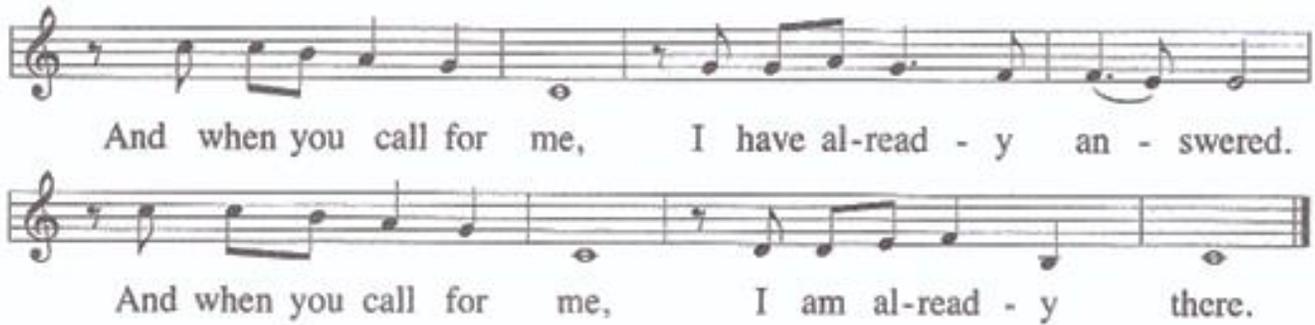
"O God We Call" (Songleader)

O God of life, our footsteps in the desert sand reveal our wandering ways through rebellious paths of mistrust and doubt. We grumble and complain, longing to eat from the poisoned fleshpots of oppression and greed.

Forgive us, O God. Turn us again to you. Raise our eyes to your healing life and teach us to trust you for all things; in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

"O God We Call" (Songleader)

"And When You Call For Me" (PKC)



People of God's covenant promises, we hear this Good News! God has raised up life for us all in Jesus the Son. In God's unrelenting grace in +Christ, we are God's forgiven people, chosen for life. Look upon Christ and live!
AMEN.

"And When You Call For Me" 1X (PKC)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. God of covenant and grace,
You love the world and everything in it. You send your Son not to condemn, but to save. Lift our hearts, raise our eyes and our lives that we might know life in you; through Jesus your Son, raised high on the cross for all the world. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING Numbers 21:4-9

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. 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." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 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. 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." 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.

God's story, your story.
Thanks be to God.

DRAMATIC REFLECTION: Numbers 21, Look Upon it and Live!

GOSPEL VERSE "Nothing in All Creation" *All Creation Sings Setting 12*



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] "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.

"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.

"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. 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. 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. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 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 our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" ELW #461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam - ing. Here in Christ our daily bread
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered In love's wel - come strong have stood.
Blest are those who in God's fullness live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with ELW pg. 189 "Let Your Steadfast Love")

"Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us O Lord"

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff is accompanied by lyrics. The first three staves end with a fermata over the final note, while the fourth staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord." (first two staves), "Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word." (third staff), and "Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord." (fourth staff).

Renewed in faith and the promises of God we pray for the church, creation, and all those who are in need.
"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"

Covenant God, in this past year when everything has changed and we, your church, were worried and weary, when we wondered and wailed, you gave us a promise. You reminded us over and over again that nothing, even COVID, especially COVID, can separate us from your love. Today and every day, fix our eyes on you Jesus, our Hope and Redeemer.

"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"

Merciful God, you love the world you've made, and you want it to be healthy and whole. Yet the world is suffering, struggling under the weight of so much sickness and death, isolation and fear. In your mercy, bring about healing and wholeness. As people become vaccinated, keep our eyes fixed on you as you open our eyes and hearts to new possibilities in your name.

"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"

Healer of our every ill, you've led and continue to lead us through our own wilderness – loneliness, heartache, unemployment, grief, pain and suffering. Be a source of strength, comfort and healing to all who cry out to you, especially those we name now aloud, Sharla, Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Eva, Carolyn, Olai and Suzy, Dave and Trudy, Lyle and Marlene, Olivia, Syd, Pastor Dick and Jan, Corrie, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowyn, Catherine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Montgomery, Rosemary, Landon, Shellene, Elizabeth, Judy and Ron, and Miriam. Wrap your loving arms around them and help them to rest in you.

"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"

Loving God, we pray for our congregation. We acknowledge that we miss each other; the comfort of warm hugs, coffee time, visiting, worshipping together in the same place. But our hearts overflow with thanksgiving as we remember and trust that You are always with us. We give thanks too for technology that brings us together, and for those who lead us in worship. Let your hand of blessing rest on Alice Haraga and Delbert and Margaret Haubrich, and on those involved in the Soup Kitchen ministry. Fill us all with your grace and keep our eyes fixed on you, Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.

Save us as you promised, we will trust your Word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

You are who God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbour.

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Day by Day" (vs. 1-2) ELW 790



1 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug-gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav-ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav-ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.

SENDING

Go in peace, Live in God's Promises!

Thanks be to God! We Will!

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