

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 13, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING SONG: "Only By Grace"

CHORUS

C² G/C C

On - ly by grace___ can we en - ter;___

3 Dm⁷ Gsus G

on - ly by grace___ can we stand,___

5 C G/C C

not by our hu - man en-deav - or,___

7 Dm⁷ F/G G

but by the blood___ of the Lamb.___

9 Em⁷ G/A Am

In - to Your pres - ence You call___ us; You

11 Fmaj⁷ Gsus G

call___ us to come.___

13 C² G/A Am⁷

In - to Your pres - ence You draw___ us,___ and

15 Dm⁷ G C Am⁷

now by Your grace___ we come.___



("Only By Grace" by Geritt Gustafson, copyright 1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES AND PSALM OF THE DAY (Psalm 107):

L: In the Old Testament lesson, we will hear of God's people again rebelling, and venomous snakes being sent among them. But God also sends them a way out: Moses makes a bronze serpent and sets it on a pole. If a serpent bit anyone,

C: **They could look at the bronze serpent and live.**

L: The Epistle lesson tells us that even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins,

C: **God made us alive together with Christ.**

L: In the Gospel lesson, we hear the great promise of salvation in Christ:

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

L: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

C: **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

L: Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

C: **Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle.**

L: They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

C: **Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

L: He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

C: **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,**

L: For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

ALL: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

RESPONSE: "God is So Good"

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me....

I'll do His will, I'll do His will....

He loves me so, He loves me so....

He answers prayer, He answers prayer...

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **O Lord, you are indeed so good. You are faithful and your love does endure forever. You have satisfied our desires and filled our lives with abundance. Move us today, Lord, to make more room for you in our lives and to lift you up for all to see by the way we live and love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Number 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 2: 1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter three.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world,

but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

**God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All who confide in Christ alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.**

**Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
You’re justified by Jesus’ blood; Baptized, you have the highest good.**

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!

To you, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

(“God Loved the World So That He Gave”, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission LSB Hymn License #100014518)

MESSAGE: “What are We Going to do with All These Snakes?” – Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

P: In many ways, we are our own worst enemies. God offers to bring all kinds of wonderful things into our lives and we too often choose instead to bring those things that do more harm than good – things that bring more death than life. Let’s confess that now.

C: Gracious Lord, we understand the disobedience of the Israelites in the wilderness for we have done the same. We know what Paul means when he says “dead in sins.” That’s us. So we need your mercy and your grace today. We need Jesus’ perfect life and innocent death. Forgive us for his sake, Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: “How Great Is Our God”

1. The

Verse:

5 B♭

splen - dor of _____ the King, _____
 (2.) age to age _____ He stands, _____ and

7 Gm7

clothed in maj - es - ty; _____ Let all the earth re - joice, -
 time is in _____ His hands; _____ Be - gin - ning and _____ the End, -

9 E♭2

_____ all the earth re - joice. He wraps -
 _____ Be - gin - ning and _____ the End. The God -

11 B♭

_____ Him - self _____ in light, _____ and
 _____ head, three _____ in one, _____

13 Gm7

dark - ness tries _____ to hide, _____ and trem - bles at _____ His voice, -
 Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, _____ the Li - on and _____ the Lamb, -

15 Eb2 Eb f

and trem - bles at His voice. How great
the Li - on and the Lamb.

§ Chorus:
17

Bb

is our God! Sing with me: How

Gm7 Ebmaj7

great is our God! And all will see how great, how great

F Bb

is our God! 2. And

2. Repeat to Verse D.S. § 3. Song ending

25 Ebmaj7

How great How great, how great

28 F Bb rit.

is our God!

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Lay Minister: Larry Betzold