

## Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 14, 2021

### Gathering

Prelude: "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

Johann Gottfried Walther

Opening Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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| <p>1 Love divine, all loves excelling,<br/>Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!<br/>Fix in us thy humble dwelling,<br/>all thy faithful mercies crown.<br/>Jesus, thou art all compassion,<br/>pure, unbounded love thou art;<br/>visit us with thy salvation,<br/>enter ev'ry trembling heart.</p> <p>2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit<br/>into ev'ry troubled breast;<br/>let us all in thee inherit;<br/>let us find thy promised rest.<br/>Take away the love of sinning;<br/>Alpha and Omega be;<br/>end of faith, as its beginning,<br/>set our hearts at liberty.</p> | <p>3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;<br/>let us all thy life receive;<br/>suddenly return, and never,<br/>nevermore thy temples leave.<br/>Thee we would be always blessing,<br/>serve thee as thy hosts above,<br/>pray, and praise thee without ceasing,<br/>glory in thy perfect love.</p> <p>4 Finish then thy new creation,<br/>pure and spotless let us be;<br/>let us see thy great salvation<br/>perfectly restored in thee!<br/>Changed from glory into glory,<br/>till in heav'n we take our place,<br/>till we cast our crowns before thee,<br/>lost in wonder, love, and praise!</p> |
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### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Word

### Blessing of the Lector

P: Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart. Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us pray. Bless John, O God of mercy, and bless us as we listen to the words of the scriptures. May they touch our hearts and lead us to return to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- <sup>1</sup> **Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.**
- <sup>2</sup> **Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,  
<sup>3</sup> gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**
- <sup>17</sup> **Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- <sup>18</sup> **They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.**
- <sup>19</sup> **Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord  
and you delivered them from their distress.**
- <sup>20</sup> **You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.**
- <sup>21</sup> **Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- <sup>22</sup> **Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in 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. <sup>3</sup>All 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. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Children's Sermon

## Sermon

*Silence for reflection and meditation*

### Hymn of the Day: "God So Loved the World"

John Stainer

God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him  
should not perish, should not perish  
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world.  
God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world;  
But that the world through Him might be  
saved.

God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him  
should not perish, should not perish  
but have everlasting life, everlasting life,  
everlasting, everlasting life.  
God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world.  
God so loved the world.

### The 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.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

*After each petition:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

## The Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

Your Offering's Impact: "Questions are Okay Here"

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**C: Amen.**

## The Meal

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus was lifted up on the cross and from the grave, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.*

## Communion Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

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| <p>1 What wondrous love is this,<br/>O my soul, O my soul!<br/>What wondrous love is this, O my soul!<br/>What wondrous love is this<br/>that caused the Lord of bliss<br/>to bear the dreadful curse<br/>for my soul, for my soul,<br/>to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?</p> <p>2 When I was sinking down,<br/>sinking down, sinking down,<br/>when I was sinking down, sinking down,<br/>when I was sinking down<br/>beneath God's righteous frown,<br/>Christ laid aside his crown<br/>for my soul, for my soul,<br/>Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.</p> | <p>3 To God and to the Lamb<br/>I will sing, I will sing;<br/>to God and to the Lamb I will sing;<br/>to God and to the Lamb,<br/>who is the great I AM,<br/>while millions join the theme,<br/>I will sing, I will sing,<br/>while millions join the theme, I will sing.</p> <p>4 And when from death I'm free,<br/>I'll sing on, I'll sing on;<br/>and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;<br/>and when from death I'm free,<br/>I'll sing God's love for me,<br/>and through eternity<br/>I'll sing on, I'll sing on;<br/>and through eternity I'll sing on.</p> |
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## Table Blessing

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

- A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

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

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

C: **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn: “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

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| 1 Christ, the life of all the living,<br>Christ, the death of death, our foe,<br>Christ, yourself for me once giving<br>to the darkest depths of woe:<br>through your suff'ring, death, and merit<br>life eternal I inherit.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks are due,<br>dearest Jesus, unto you. | 2 You have suffered great affliction<br>and have borne it patiently,<br>even death by crucifixion,<br>fully to atone for me;<br>for you chose to be tormented<br>that my doom should be prevented.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks are due,<br>dearest Jesus, unto you. |
| 3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,<br>for the sorrows deep and sore,<br>for the anguish in the garden,<br>I will thank you evermore;<br>thank you for the groaning, sighing,<br>for the bleeding and the dying,<br>for that last triumphant cry,<br>praise you evermore on high.           |  |

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made”

Friedrich Hark

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## Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Donald Harris, Assisting Minister

John Cathcart, Reader

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, March 14: 4 Lent**

10:30 am Worship

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

### **Monday, March 15**

7 pm Council Meeting

### **Tuesday, March 16**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **Wednesday, March 17**

6:30 pm Bell Choir

Lenten Midweek Service (online only)—

Holden Evening Prayer & Thomas

### **Thursday, March 18**

7 pm Technology Upgrade Committee

### **Sunday, March 21: 5 Lent**

10:30 am Worship

4 pm Sunday School (Zoom)

### **Monday, March 22**

*\*\*Epistle Articles Deadline\*\**

7 pm Council Nominating Committee (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, March 23**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **Wednesday, March 24**

6:30 pm Bell Choir

Lenten Midweek Service (online only)—

Holden Evening Prayer & Mary Magdalene

### **Saturday, March 27**

7 pm Youth Group (Zoom)

## Our Life Together

**For emergency pastoral care**, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

**If you have requests for the Prayer Chain**, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Beth** (Elinor Schieman's daughter); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Christian**; **Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Colin** (Millers' grandson); **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Lee and Jane Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **George and Sherry** (Shirley Harbaugh's cousins); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Ruth Lohmeier**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin, Carol, Jim, and Jeannie Oerther** (Portmanns' sister and family); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Tom Pack** (Betty Pack's son); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brothers); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter &

son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith** (Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer**; **Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner**; **Jeanne Wagner**; **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle**; **Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry**, **Barbara Moorhouse**, **Jean Nolte**, **Heather Segar**.

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadin and Barry Wisecup).

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*To give your offering through our website, please visit [stpaulreading.org/online-giving/](http://stpaulreading.org/online-giving/)*