

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021



Our mission is “to Know Christ,  
to Grow in Christ,  
and to Show the Love of Christ.”

**Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church**  
**Our mission is “To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,**  
**and to Show the Love of Christ”**  
***We are glad you are here!***

**Music**

**Recorded earlier:** Sue Paulson

**Welcome**

Pastor Eric Olsen

**Invocation**

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

**Amen**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Presider:* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Presider:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

*Presider:* God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

## Opening Hymn “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW# 335

Musical notation for the first stanza of the hymn, featuring two staves: soprano (treble clef) and bass (bass clef). The music consists of quarter notes and half notes.

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

Musical notation for the second stanza of the hymn, featuring two staves: soprano (treble clef) and bass (bass clef). The music consists of quarter notes and half notes.

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Musical notation for the third stanza of the hymn, featuring two staves: soprano (treble clef) and bass (bass clef). The music consists of quarter notes and half notes.

*Refrain*

Musical notation for the Refrain of the hymn, featuring two staves: soprano (treble clef) and bass (bass clef). The music consists of quarter notes and half notes.

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

Musical notation for the Refrain continuation of the hymn, featuring two staves: soprano (treble clef) and bass (bass clef). The music consists of quarter notes and half notes.

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Musical notation for the final part of the Refrain, featuring two staves: soprano (treble clef) and bass (bass clef). The music consists of quarter notes and half notes.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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

**And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

### **Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Lord have mercy**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Lord have mercy**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Lord have mercy**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**



## **Prayer of the Day:**

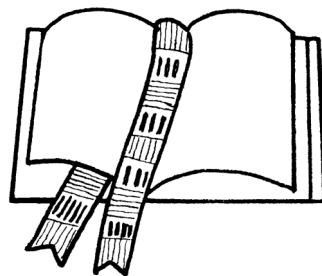
**O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9 *Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole*

<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.



**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

### **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** *While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<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 na<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.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: “Lord of All Hopefulness” ELW 765**



Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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**Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21** *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*

[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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
Response: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Pastor Eric Olsen



**Hymn:****"Wondrous Love is This"****ELW# 666**

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be -neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## **Apostles 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 the People Lord in Your Mercy/ Hear Our Prayer**

### **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.

### **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them and throughout this week we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Announcements**

## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

## Closing Hymn “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW #759

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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## **Sending Response**

We are welcomed into God's love,

**Just as we are**

We are sent into God's world,

**To be a reflection of Christ.**

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

### **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us Today for Fellowship time on ZOOM. Please log in using the information below. You can join online by [Clicking Here](#).

By phone call: 1 253-215-8782 At prompt enter Meeting

ID: 846 0569 4721 Password 874950

### **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

Go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+. You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account. Or go to [www.petersburg.org](http://www.petersburg.org) and click on the Facebook link.

### **This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, March 14, 2021, Daylight savings begins!!**

8:30 am. Adult Bible Class Study Mathew with Tom Bradford

9:00 am..."Sing for Joy" St. Olaf Choir, Northfield, MN

10 am... Worship Service 88.5 FM 9:30 am and 2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

**Wednesday**, 6:30 Church Council

**Thursday**, 7:00pm Holden Evening prayer

### **Worship in the Home**

"[Worship in the Home](#)" continues to be available each week on the ELCA Worship blog. You are encouraged to worship as you are able in homes on Sunday and throughout the week. In addition to Sunday worship resources, [resources for Daily Prayer](#) are available, including simplified forms of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer, as well as table prayers.

### **Sermon audio/video:**

<https://www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons-2/>

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio **Follow us on Face-book:** Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

**March Prayer Partner:** Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage

**March Mission Support:** Glacier Bible Camp, Juneau

Part of Camp is growing as the body of Christ and bonding with youth from all over Southeast. Your gifts help cover expenses related to running the Camp so that camper fees can be kept at a reasonable level.

**Salvation Army Pantry:** Canned fruits

## Prayers for Health & Healing

Tim Fisk, Roald Norheim,  
Randy and Shannon Payne, Erica Thompson,  
Joseph Tagaban Gary Putnam, Pam Kriter,  
Darcy Judy



## Prayers for those Serving our Country

Jesse Anderson	Serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale	US Marine, serving in San Diego, CA
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
Shania Dahlberg	Serving at Camp Pendleton, CA
Jon Floyd	Serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Parker	Serving in Bangor, WA
Michael Gardner	Serving in Fort Meade, MD
Alan McCay	USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson	US Marines, serving in Pensacola, FL
Michael Serafini	Serving at Ft Irwin, CA
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in South Korea
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Jacksonville, NC

## Prayers for Our Church Council

Church Council: Chris Van Ettinger– President, Desi Burrell– Vice President, Nancy Berg– Secretary, Robin Roberts– Treasurer, Kara Newman, Tom Parker– Youth, John Swanson Building , John Small, Bridget Wittstock-Good Beginnings



### Birthday's this week

**Monday** March 15th, Sylvia Larson  
**Saturday** March 20th, Max Marohl

### Your Offering

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some have started to contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page click [HERE](#) and clicking the words GIVING along the top of the web page. You can also go directly to the secure site by clicking [HERE](#).

### Your Offerings:

Offering Month to Date \$6,611

Offering year to date \$38,451

Monthly General Budget \$20,162



### Coffee Order

Get in your Mt. Meru coffee orders to Grant Trask. 772-3775  
or [trask@gci.net](mailto:trask@gci.net)

### Bulletin Cover Art

We are looking for people who are interested in submitting a picture or artwork for the bulletin cover relating to the scripture lessons for that Sunday. You can find the coming week's scripture lesson at the bottom of the last page of the bulletin. Please contact the church office 772-3144 or [plcakoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com). Thank you!

	This Week: March 14th	Next Week: March 21st
Musician	Sue Paulson	Lila Trask
Reader	Ginger Evens	
Counter	Nancy & Dave	Nancy & Dave



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## **GOSPEL MESSAGE March 14, 2021**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

#### **Look and Live**

The cure for the ancient Israelites, following Moses, is to look directly at what is killing them, rather than avoid or hide from it. Healing occurs in the confrontation.

In today's gospel, Jesus likens his crucifixion to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness so the Israelites might be saved from the venom of desert snakes.

In doing so, Jesus communicates that he came so we might look at what is killing us. He came to shine a light on that which poisons our lives so we might live.

In today's gospel, we catch Jesus in the middle of a conversation with a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who is slinking around in the night to get a word in with Jesus, presumably so he is not seen. In this conversation Jesus gives a judgment that shines a light on Nicodemus: you, Nicodemus, seem to prefer the darkness because there is something you are doing that you want to hide, thus making it easier for you to live in the dark.

This sounds an awful lot like the experience of shame. Jesus is naming the way shame has dictated Nicodemus's life, relegating him to shadows where he will not be seen for what he really is.

Notice the lack of condemnation. Jesus is simply a light, showing Nicodemus to himself.

Jesus is also a light to us, showing us to ourselves. Looking at Jesus lifted up on the cross, we see the poison that is killing us: power used to protect the status quo; our instinct to blame one in order to save the rest. We see the fruit of our defenses against what the light reveals: the death of an innocent man at the hands of those in power.

Christ has come so that we will see what is poisoning us and that, in seeing, we might turn and live.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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**Next Week's Readings:** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12,  
Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33