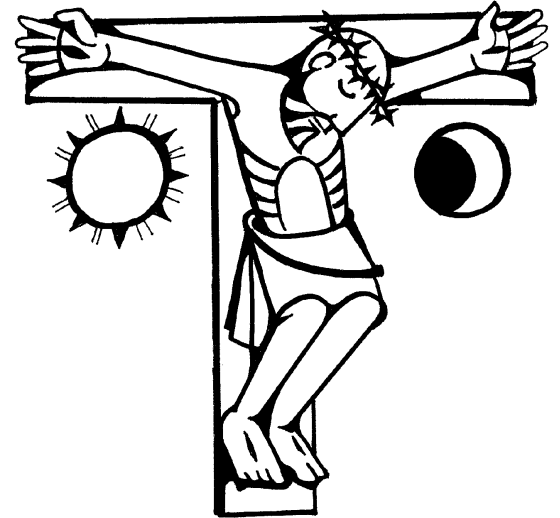


**Sunday, March 14, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent,**  
**Year B**



*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmington DE*  
*Leader Pages*

**GATHERING**

**Prelude** - *Cantor*

**Confession and Forgiveness** - *Presiding Minister*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.  
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Song** - *ELW 343* Vs. 1 & 5

The image shows a musical score for a gathering song. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and four lines of lyrics below it. The second system has a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are:

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
4 We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made a -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior  
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to

be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my  
 know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who  
 king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and  
 slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that

Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 at my need his life did spend!  
 for his death we thirst and cry.  
 he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

**Greeting** - *Presiding Minister*

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** - *Kyrie Setting 5*

**Canticle of Praise** - *Glory to God Setting 5*

**Prayer of the Day** - *Assistant Minister*

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.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**First Reading (Numbers 21:4-9)** - *Lector*

A reading from Numbers.

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. 5The 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.” 6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The 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. 8And 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.” 9So 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** - 107:1-3, 17-22

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

2 Let the redeemed of the | Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,

3 gathering them in | from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from  
the south.

17 Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;  
through their sins they | were afflicted.

18 They loathed all man- | ner of food  
and drew near | to death’s door.

19 Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord  
and you delivered them from | their distress.

20 You sent forth your | word and healed them  
and rescued them | from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your | steadfast love  
and your wonderful works | for all people.

22 Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

**Second Reading (Ephesians 2:1-10) - Lector**

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Ephesians.

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

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation - Lenten Acclamation Setting 5**

**Gospel (John 3:14-21) - Preacher**

The Holy Gospel According to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 14“Just 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.

16“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.

17“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. 18Those 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. 19And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21But 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 the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**Sermon** - Pastor Jason

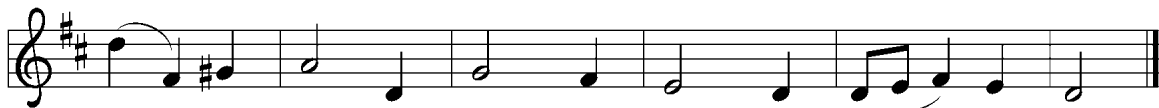
## Hymn of the Day - *ELW 323 (Vs. 1-3)*



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

## **Creed** - Lector

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,



God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession** - *Lector*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**Offering Song** - *ELW 336 - Cantor*

**Offering Prayer** - *Assistant Minister*

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

**Amen.**

**Dialogue & Thanksgiving** - *Presiding Minister*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

**We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life.

For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

**We glorify you, O God.**

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,  
that strengthened by your Word,  
we may care for others and for the world you made,  
and work for justice and peace for all.  
For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,  
Holy God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught:

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.**

## **SENDING**

**Blessing** - *Presiding Minister*

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. **Amen.**

**Dismissal** - *Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** - *Cantor*