

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; Luke Kroeger; children in Ukraine and throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

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.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

Summer is just around the corner and with it, time to plan going to camp. Brochures are located in the narthex.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

We will collect items for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits throughout the Lenten season. Here are the items that make-up a kit:

One light-weight bath-size towel

Two bath-size soap bars

One adult size toothbrush in its original packaging

One sturdy comb—remove packaging

One metal nail clippers—remove packaging

You may also donate to the cause and we'll do the shopping. Just mark your offering envelope or a plan envelope of your donation.

Thank you for supporting this cause. The refugee camps throughout the world are filled with folks in need.

CHICKEN DINNER

The chicken dinner fundraising tickets are now available. We have raised the price to \$15.00/plate in keeping with other area meals and the increase in food prices. We are hopeful folks will still feel they are getting a great meal for their money. **Now we need you to sell tickets.** See Nalani. Our goal...608 meals. We are seeking donations from Thrivent, Walmart, and Kwik Trip to help cut the expenses and raise as much as we can toward the steps/lift project.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

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.

A reading from Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering 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 rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner 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.**

²⁰You 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.**

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

Second Reading:

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.

A reading from Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in 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. ³All 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. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

*Hymn "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW #779

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God..**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Greg Bever

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene, Babbitt, Aidden Tilly, Laurie Switz Johnson, Erin Laperle, Heidi Stenerson, Doug Short, Sally Dana, Dan Paulson, Family of Kim Ballwahn

CALENDAR

Today	Council Meeting	11:30 AM
Wed., Mar.13	Supper	5:00 PM
	Holden Evening Prayer	6:00 PM
Sun., Mar. 17	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Children Sing & Noisy Offering	

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

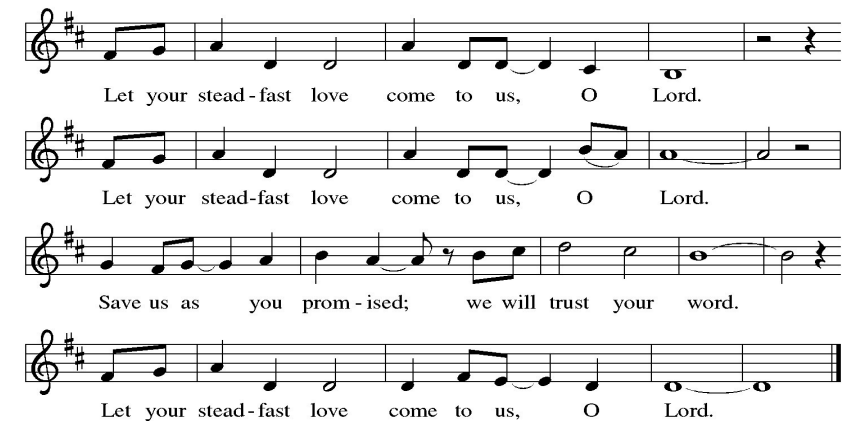
*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.**

that no one may boast. ¹⁰For 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. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

Gospel Reading

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.

The holy gospel according to John 3:14-21

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

Reverend Karen Sparling

***Hymn**

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW#660

***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 INTERCESSION**

(Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.)

P: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

***Offertory Hymn**

“Create in Me A Clean Heart”

ELW#186

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Please join together in the Offertory Prayer

**Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.**

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Great Thanksgiving**

ELW p. 190

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution