

Mon Numbers 21:4-9 The good LORD intended to detour His people around Edom and not trample over their cousins (descendants of Esau), but that didn't sit well with people who saw the detour as more tedious miles and further months of bland manna. So they needed and received another dose of God's tough love, bringing them to repent (4-7). Then God provided an anti-venom serum that was free, available, no standing in line or making an appointment for a dose of God's curative: just open your eyes and heart to God's cure for Satan's poison, as per Genesis 3:14-15.

Tues John 3:14-21 Nicodemus failed to make the connection, so Jesus made it for him (and for us) – that the brass serpent was an image of Jesus Himself, who would be lifted up in the wilderness of sin, who is God's antidote to Satan's poison, who can save souls from perishing in pain, and who is able to bestow eternal life. Let's trust God on this -- Jesus saves!

Wed Ephesians 2:4-10 Who is responsible for saving lost souls? God. But why does God bother? Because He *is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses*. Really? Yes, God had compassion on corpses and resolved to make us alive together with Jesus and raise us up from the grave together with Jesus and make us sit together with Jesus in heaven. Together with Jesus all the way!!

Thurs Psalm 38 David lets us eavesdrop on this conversation with the LORD, and what he has to say about himself makes us cringe (1-8). We see that his soul is being tugged first one way—and then the other way (9-14), but we also see that he can't let himself be torn away from the LORD (15-20). "LORD God, I need Your help! Help me! HELP!"

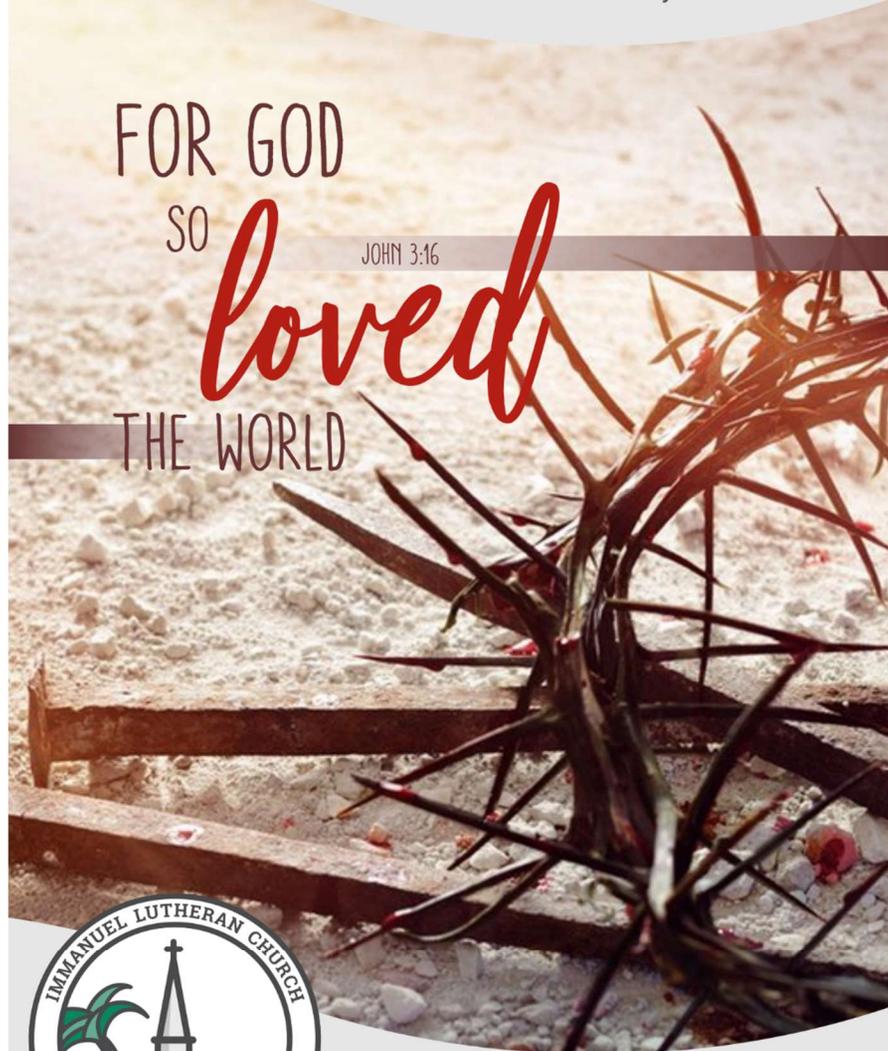
Fri John 12:27-36 Jesus lets us eavesdrop on this prayer to His Father, and we hear that He felt depressed in heart and soul. He was pressured to the point of asking: "Is there an easier way out for Me, easier than horrific crucifixion?" But that would sabotage everything – so Jesus let it rest under the umbrella "*Glorify Your name.*" That is, "No matter how unbearable things get for ME, I want Your good name to be honored by what I do." I thank You, dear Savior, for bearing the unbearable for me.

Sat Acts 22:17-21 God had rescued Saul/Paul from his death spiral, but he needed more stabilizing -- so Jesus set him straight about putting his past behind him, avoiding confrontation with hostile Jews in Satan's backyard, but rather pack his duffel bag and go far afield into foreign lands to bring non-Jews into touch with God's redeeming love via Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for further developments.

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Neil Bernthal
Acolyte: Seth Bernthal



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 107:1-9

¹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; ⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷ He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #140:1,2,5 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

1. Jesus, I will ponder now On Thy holy Passion; With Thy Spirit me endow For such meditation. Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish Of Thy suffering, pain, and death, That I may not perish.
2. Make me see Thy great distress, Anguish, and affliction, Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Thy crucifixion; Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails, did wound Thee, How for man Thou died'st, O God, Who with thorns had crowned Thee.
5. If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me, Let Thy cross my fear disarm, Peace of conscience give me. Grant that I may trust in Thee And Thy holy Passion. If His Son so loveth me, God must have compassion.

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

☞ Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

- ☞ We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- ☞ **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- ☞ God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

☞ The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

☞ **♫ Amen, amen, a – men.**

HYMN: TLH #394

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

1. **My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away; Oh, let me from this day Be wholly Thine!**
2. **May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart, My zeal inspire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**
3. **While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my Guide. Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.**
4. **When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove; Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!**

✠ Announcements ✠

Call Update Mr. Matthew Kranz is still considering our call to him to teach, please keep him in your prayers.

Shut-in/Encouragement List

Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Paulette Galstad** is

suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. **Greg Tincer** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **JoAnne Weis** is regaining her strength at home and feeling much better. **Rudy Enriquez** is home from the hospital and awaiting the beginning of treatment for his throat cancer. **Bill Hartmann's** health is deteriorating quickly.

- ✠ **Mar. 14:** Orlando Service 8 am
- ✠ **Mar. 17:** Midweek Lent 6:30pm
- ✠ **Mar. 21:** Trustees/Council
- ✠ **Mar. 21:** Masks-On Service 9am
- ✠ **Mar. 27:** Church Work Day
- ✠ **Mar. 28:** Palm Sunday
- ✠ **Apr. 2:** Good Fri. Tenebrae 7pm
- ✠ **Apr. 4:** Easter Sunday
- ✠ **Apr. 18:** Voters Meeting

Last Week: WH – 37

Total Offering = \$1,461

General = \$1,261 | Missions = \$50 | Property = \$50 | Building = \$50 | Memorial = \$50

Cleaner (3/20): Custodio | **Acolyte (3/21):** Mason Goodwin

SERMON – John 3:14-21 [Jesus said] “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

No One Gives More Than God

Through His Son, God gives...

- I. The Antidote to heal sin’s snakebite
- II. The Light to brighten the works of truth

OFFERTORY

WS p.16

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

☩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

HYMN: TLH #245:1-4 “God Loved the World so That He Gave”

1. 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.
2. Christ Jesus is the Ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death; All that confide in Him alone Are built on this chief Corner-stone.
3. God would not have the sinner die, His Son with saving grace is nigh, His Spirit in the Word doth teach How man the blessed goal may reach.
4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which thou hast done; Thou'rt justified by Jesus' blood, Thy Baptism grants the highest good.

your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

☩ Amen!

INTROIT

Ps. 27:1ff

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- ☐** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- ☩** **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**
- ☐** One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
- ☩** **For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD

WS p.13

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

School Children Song

“Glory Be to Jesus”

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Numbers 21:4-9 ⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And 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 loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

EPISTLE READING – Ephesians 2:1-10 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in 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 coming ages 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 a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

G ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSIO OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

HYMN: WS #723

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

- 1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my
soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**
- 2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, When I
was sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my
soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!**
- 3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To God and to the
Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**
- 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And when
from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free
I'll sing His love for me, And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.**