

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church
512-863-7332

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628
flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION VERSE: “O Holy King of Heaven” (Songs for All Seasons, #193, sts. 1,
[tune: Valet Will Ich Dir Geben])

O holy King of heaven,
I have offended You;
My thoughts and words and actions
Have been unfaithful, too!
So often, I am lacking
In zeal and faithfulness,
Till now, in humble fashion,
Your mercy I address!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us take a moment now and reflect on the words that we just sang. We just confessed that we are not perfect but that we have “offended” God and “been unfaithful too” in our “thoughts and words and actions.” But thanks be to God that He is here and that He hears our cries for mercy. So, let us now call out to God and confess our sin seeking His forgiveness.

People: Lord, in many ways we have rejected You and not loved You with our whole heart. We have set You aside. We have neglected Your Truth, our life of prayer, our praise of Your holy name, and we have not always taken up our cross and followed You. Forgive us and renew us to live lives of discipleship fully devoted to You, walking in Your ways.

ABSOLUTION VERSE: “O Holy King of Heaven” (Songs for All Seasons, #193, sts. 2)

Dear children in My fam’ly,
I’ve heard your contrite cries!
Your hearts bowed down before Me,
Cry “Help me!” to the skies!
I want you all to listen
And hear Me very well:
*“The bill of debt you owe now
Has all been paid in full!”*

Pastor: My friends, it is true! Jesus has paid your debt and taken away your sin. He has borne your darkness and died your death. God does not condemn you; but in Christ Jesus He saves you. He raises you to new life and welcomes you into His heart and home. It is my privilege today to announce to you that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAISE VERSE: “O Holy King of Heaven” (Songs for All Seasons, #193, sts. 3)

Oh, thank You, dear Lord Jesus,
For loving me each day;
For all the blessings giv’n me
Are more than words can say!
The measure of Your kindness
Is grace from first to last!
May I in heaven praise You,
When life on earth is past!
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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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;

People: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Numbers 21:4–9*

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 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.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 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. 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.” 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *Ephesians 2:1–10*

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 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— 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. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *John 3:14–21*

[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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. 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. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and

glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: "God Loved the World So that He Gave" (LSB, #571 sts. 1-4)

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.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

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SERMON: "Extraordinary Love" (John 3:16)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

OFFERTORY HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ” (LSB, #425 sts. 1, 3)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Text: Public domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

Following each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Following the final petition:

Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have; we pray as You have taught us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION: (Numbers 6:24-26)

*Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” (LSB, #814 sts. 1-4)

O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!

'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.

He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL:

Please be seated
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

+ † +

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus
with

Proclaimer – Rev. John Selle

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Adam Perez

Organist:

Phyllis Draheim

Lay Readers:

Online Reader – Mike Whittaker

9:30 Reader – Janine Alford

11:00 Reader – Denise Barnes

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman