

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,  
**A: 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

L: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**Communion Music Video**  
**“Me on Your Mind” by Matthew West**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

### BLESSING

L: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and, + give you peace.

**A: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN- “

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**A: Thanks be to God!**

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**Presiding Minister:** SAM Marcia Buchs

**Worship Steward:** Mark Mackinson

**Greeters:** Marty & Shelly Heller

**Ushers:** Karen Hoegger & Judy Sykes

**Lector:** Julie Mehlberg

**Communion Prep:** Pat Lund

**Comm. Asst:** John Mehlberg & Judy Sykes

**Hospitality:** Kris Lambert, Emma Rapp & Amanda Schumm

**Musician:** Sandy Erickson

**SS Teacher:** Amanda Miller

**Counters:** Jean Harrison & Cody Leach

**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**March 10, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Introduction:** 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.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please consider sponsoring the Altar Flowers*

## GATHERING HYMNS

**“Take, Oh Take Me as I Am” (Words on Screen) Sing 3 times**

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**A: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Holy God,

**A: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

L: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

## GREETING

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

**A: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

**A: Amen**

## Children’s Message—*Dismissal to Children’s Chapel*

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### First Reading- Numbers 21:4-9

L: A reading from Numbers

<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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

A: **Thanks be to God**

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

A reading from Psalm

<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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

A: **Thanks be to God**

#### Second Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10

L: A reading from Ephesians

<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 nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Ancient Words”

(Words on Screen)

#### Gospel - John 3:14-21

L: The Holy Gospel according to John

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Sermon

SAM Marcia Buchs

#### HYMN OF THE DAY “When the Poor Ones” ELW 725

#### APOSTLE’S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**A: 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

Each petition will end “Hear Us, O God” and the congregation will respond “Your mercy is great”

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”*

## OFFERING

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

#### Offering Prayer

L: 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.

A: **Amen.**

## MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ’s table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

A: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy (music on screen)**