

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

### March 14, 2021

*The fourth covenant of the Old Testament 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.*

## Gathering

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

### Welcome

### Confession and Absolution

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

## Opening Hymn

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

#859

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!  
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.  
Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake.  
Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.
- 2 Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been  
sent by God's gracious ordaining.
- 3 Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;  
see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;  
Infinite Love here befriends you.

## Greeting

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

# Word

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

*- Quiet reflection -*

## First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom;  
but the people became impatient on the way.  
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.”

Then YAHWEH sent poisonous serpents among the people,  
 and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.  
 The people came to Moses and said,  
 "We have sinned by speaking against YAHWEH and against you;  
 pray to YAHWEH to take away the serpents from us."  
 So Moses prayed for the people.  
 And YAHWEH said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;  
 and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."  
 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.

God is still speaking.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

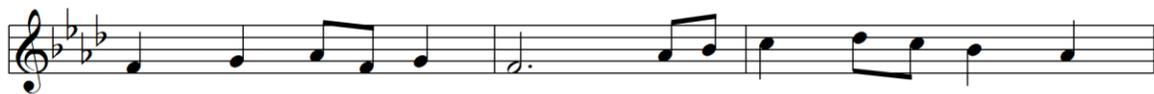
*Cantor – Verse 1; All – Verses 2-4*



1. Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in  
 2. If you have ev - er wan - dered where no hu - man  
 3. If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to  
 4. So praise the One whose love is great, whose kind - ness



trou - bled days with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that  
 help was near, and in your trou - ble cried to God, who  
 eat or dress, and cried to God, who heard your voice, and  
 is well known, con - si - der well the heal - ing hand and



call for high - est praise. Let all who know God's  
 res - cued you from fear, then thank the God of  
 healed all your dis - tress, then sing with sounds of  
 help you have been shown, and tell the world what



sav - ing love sing grate - ful songs al - ways.  
 stead - fast love who dries your ev - ery tear.  
 ho - ly joy; God's won - drous works pro - fess.  
 God has done. Praise God and God a - lone!

## Second Reading

Excerpt from MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail

A reading from Martin Luther King Jr.'s *"Letter from Birmingham Jail"*

"You may well ask, "Why direct action, why sit-ins, marches, and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are exactly right in your call for negotiation. Indeed, this is the purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has consistently refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. I just referred to the creation of tension as a part of the work of the nonviolent resister. This may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word "tension." I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension, but there is a type of constructive nonviolent tension that is necessary for growth. Just as Socrates felt that it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half-truths to the unfettered realm of creative analysis and objective appraisal, we must see the need of having nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men to rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood. So, the purpose of direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation. We therefore concur with you in your call for negotiation. Too long has our beloved Southland been bogged down in the tragic attempt to live in monologue rather than dialogue.

One of the basic points in your statement is that our acts are untimely. Some have asked, "Why didn't you give the new administration time to act?" The only answer that I can give to this inquiry is that the new administration must be prodded about as much as the outgoing one before it acts. We will be sadly mistaken if we feel that the election of Mr. Boutwell will bring the millennium to Birmingham. While Mr. Boutwell is much more articulate and gentle than Mr. Conner, they are both segregationists, dedicated to the task of maintaining the status quo. The hope I see in Mr. Boutwell is that he will be reasonable enough to see the futility of massive resistance to desegregation. But he will not see this without pressure from the devotees of civil rights. My friends, I must say to you that we have not made a single gain in civil rights without determined legal and nonviolent pressure. History is the long and tragic story of the fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but, as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups are more immoral than individuals.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

God is still speaking.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to God the source of all mercy. Re - turn to God the fountain of  
9  
grace. Re - turn to the Fa-ther's stead - fast love. Re - turn to the Mo - ther's warm em-brace.

The holy gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O God.**

**Gospel Reading**

John 3:14-21

And just 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 God gave the only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“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.

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.

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.  
For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,  
so that their deeds may not be exposed.  
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.”

This is the Good News.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Sermon**

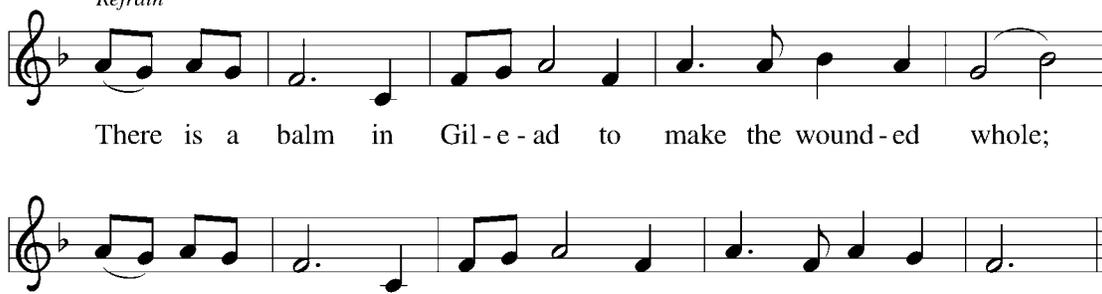
**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**

*“There Is a Balm in Gilead”*

#614

*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound-ed whole;  
there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below each staff.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

**Prayers of the People** *(Each petition will conclude with, "we pray" and the congregation responds in song, "God of mercy, hear our prayer; God of mercy, hear our prayer.")*

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(The people greet each other with some sign of peace: "Peace be with you.")*

### Gathering Our Gifts

**Offertory** *Lincoln University Choir sings "No Mirrors in My Nana's House" by Ysaye Barnwell. Directed by Camilla Horne (Cammy is Rachel Ackland's friend and has visited OSLC and helped with plants!)*

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Faithful God, you walk beside us in wilderness places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.

Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Sovereign. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

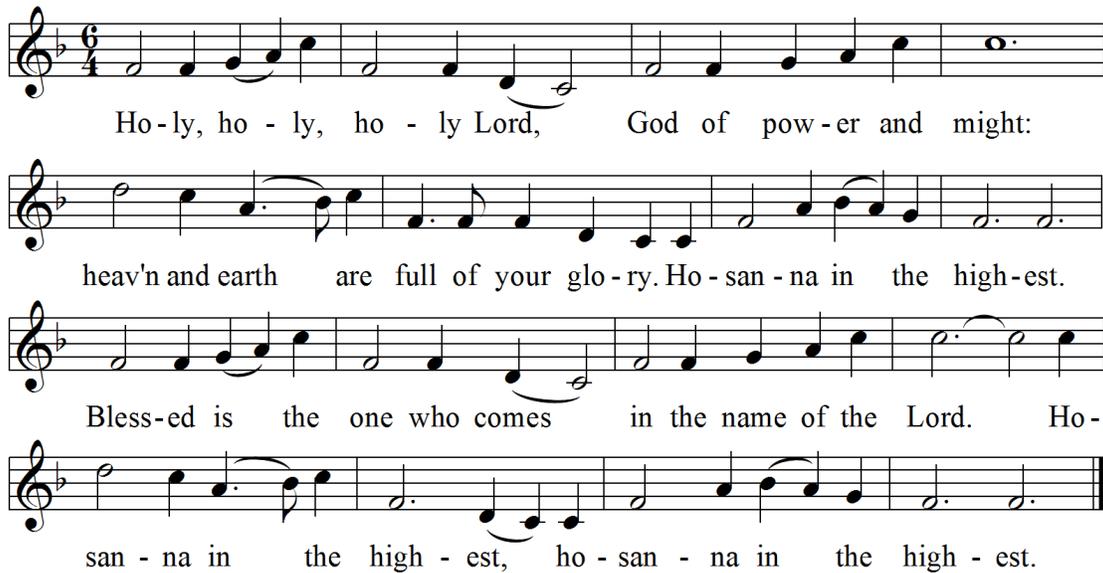
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Land of Rest, American folk tune; adapt. Marcia Pruner*

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

Joining with the people of God throughout the ages, let us pray with confidence.

**Our Mother, 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

## Distribution

You are invited to share bread and wine or crackers and juice or whatever you have collected for a common meal. As you share and eat, please use these or similar words, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you," until we feast together as the entire body of Christ.

## Song during Distribution

### "Taste and See"

#493

*Refrain - All*

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,  
taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,". The second system continues the melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

## Blessing

## Prayer

## Post Communion Canticle "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

*Ostinato Refrain*

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord  
I will re - joice! Look to God,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord". The second system continues the melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I will re - joice! Look to God,". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

do not be a - fraid; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is  
near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

Text: Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## Sending

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

**Announcements**

**Blessing**



## Sending Song

### “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

#185

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Dwell in the wilderness.

**Thanks be to God!**

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## Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Laurie Eaton
Preaching:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Lector:	Craig Johnson
Assisting:	Jeanne Heer and Linda Thorson
Accompanist:	Tom Witt
Cantors:	Mary Preus, Kathleen Olsen
Special Music:	Lincoln University Choir directed by Camilla Horne

# Weekly at Our Saviour's

## Sundays

9:00am Adult Forum on Zoom  
10:30am **Online Worship and Coffee Hour on Zoom**  
7:00pm Living Questions on Zoom  
*See Weekly Update or website for Log-in.*

## Tuesdays

12:30-2pm Staff Meeting on Zoom

## Wednesdays

10:15-12 n Weekly Bible Study on Zoom  
4:30-5pm Community Meals "to Go"  
7:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer on Zoom

## Fridays

4:00pm Poetry and the Attentive Heart Contemplative Pause on Zoom  
Friday, March 12 and 19

## First Friday of the Month

7:00am Men's Breakfast at Butter Bakery and Café  
Socially Distanced at Butter weather permitting  
Always on Zoom- Check in with Dan Swenson-Klatt

**Announcements will be located in the  
Our Saviour's Weekly Update email**

Information about Our Saviour's can be found on our [website](#)  
and on our [Facebook page](#).

## Electronic & Online Giving Options

With the worship being brought online and the office being closed and staff working remotely, the best way to keep up with your pledge is to do so through your Smartphone or online.

### Online Giving

- Use our [online authorization form](#).
- Please note: if your donation is charged to your credit card, OSLC does not get the entire amount; Vanco takes a fee from your donation. For Amex cards the fee is 3.5% +.45 a transaction – all other cards are 2.75% +.45 a transaction. No fee apply if you have your pledge taken from a checking account by providing a routing number and account number.

### Give Plus App

- Download the app from free from the App Store or Google Play.
- When you open GivePlus for the first time, you will be prompted to enter the name of the church. As you type, usually a list will appear; select “Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church” from the list. After you select a church, it automatically becomes your “home” or “default” church, and will be displayed the next time you open the app.
- Set up an account. Enter your email address (this becomes your user name) and create a password. Choose how you prefer to login in: Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password. An email will be sent to you to verify your email address. Click on the link sent to you via email.
- Choose what information to store. Most credit cards are accepted. You can also use a checking or savings account. Use your phone’s camera to scan your information from your credit card or enter it manually.
- Enter the amount you wish to give, indicate which fund you want it to go to, and choose whether it is a one-time donation or a recurring one. Enter it and confirm that your contribution is correct. That’s it!

### Texting a Donation

- Send a text to **612-503-5971**
- Enter the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: **\$25**.
- You’ll receive a text with a link to register.
- Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information.
- Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.
- The next time, you won't need to enter card info. Just text the amount you wish to give. To add a card, or change your information, simply text “edit” to the number.

### QR code

- Use your phone camera and point it to the QR below. Click on the bubble that comes up to be sent to the contribution page. Follow the instructions to make your contribution.





# OUR SAVIOUR'S Lutheran Church

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,  
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent –  
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

612-871-2967 Office Hours: M-Th, 9-3  
2315 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55404  
[www.oursavioursmpls.org](http://www.oursavioursmpls.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls](http://www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls)

## Ministers

### Pastors

## Members of OSLC

**Laurie A. Eaton**

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612-871-2967 opt 3

**Martha Schwehn Bardwell**

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### Music Director

**Mary Preus**

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### Bookkeeper

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### Office Manager

**Alexander Farino**

[alex@oursavioursmpls.org](mailto:alex@oursavioursmpls.org)

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### Custodian

**Matthew Bell**

(Please refer custodial issues to Pastor Laurie above.)

### Front Desk &

### Office Volunteers

**Jeanne Asp; Rachel Ackland; Mary Borgen; Elaine Degelau, Deacon (retired); Nancy Nygaard Johnson; LaRue Unglaube**

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### Our Saviour's Community Services Interim Executive Director

**David Fey** [david@oscs-mn.org](mailto:david@oscs-mn.org)

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