SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

> FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 10, 2024

March 10, 2024 Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

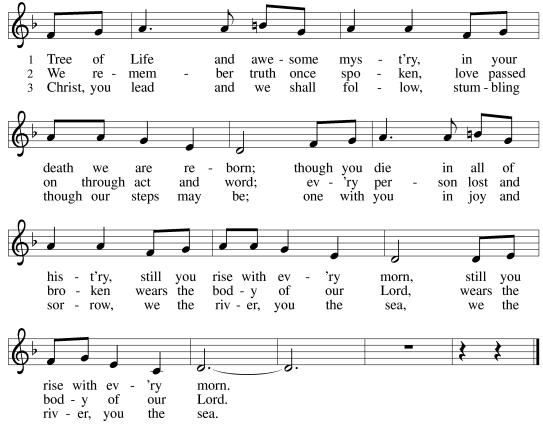
LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***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.
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.

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. **Amen.** *GATHERING SONG Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (ELW 334)



VERSE 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light. Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.

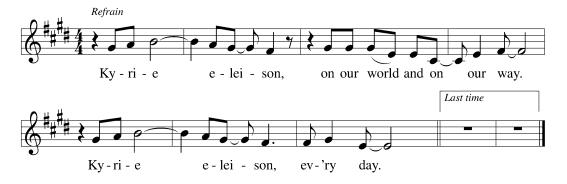
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***GREETING**

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

*KYRIE Kyrie eleison (Dakota Road) (W&P 81)

(Congregation sing Refrain; Choir sing Verses)



Vs. 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the Church, for the unity of all; For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! (refrain)

Vs. 2 That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! (refrain)

Vs 3 For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives, in the water and the word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! (refrain)

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM God so Loved the World Hillsong

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the [|]LORD is good, for God's mercy en- [|] dures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the [|]LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand [|] of the foe,

³gathering them in ¹ from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took re-¹ bellious paths; through their sins they ¹ were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all man-¹ ner of food and drew near ¹ to death's door.

¹⁹Then 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.

²¹Let 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: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

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 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION There Is a Longing in Our Hearts (ACS 1078)

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GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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 Complain! Complain!

*Please stand as you are able for the final verse



***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 THE CHURCH** (*Please respond.*) *P: Hear us, O God.* **C: Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.





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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. 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.**

*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 our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Holy, Holy, Holy (Argentine): Santo, santo, santo (W&P 62) san - to, mi San - to, san - to, со ra - zón $te_a - do - ra$. ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you. 0 Mi co - ra - zón be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se _ ñor. te sa heart is glad the words: You are ho -God. My say lv. to

Text: Argentine traditional Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come to the meal!

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG Jesus, Lamb of God (Jernigan) (W&P 76) Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name; Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all" Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

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COMMUNION HYMN Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779) 0 Α ing grace!- how sweet the soundthat maz 1 'Twas 2 grace that taught my heart to fear, and 3 Through man and dan gers, toils, snares Ι У Lord his The has prom ised to 4 good me; 5 When we've been there ten thou sand bright years, saved a wretch like me! Ι once was lost, but grace my fears re lieved; how pre cious did that grace brought me have al read _ у come; 'tis has shield word my hope se _ cures; he will my and shin - ing the we've less days as sun, no to 0 found: was blind. but now Ι see. now am pear hour first lieved! grace ap the Ι be will lead safe thus far, and grace me home. por tion be long life en dures. as as sing God's praise than when we'd first be gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

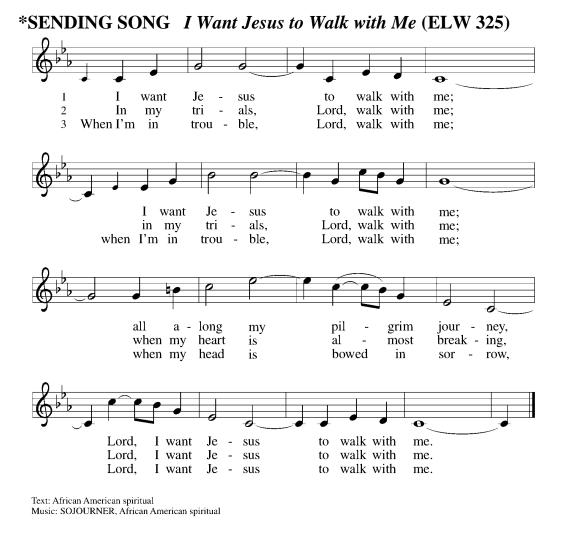
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. 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.**

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the bread of Life! **Thanks be to God.**

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor	Pastor Michael Allwein
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Pianist	Heidi Shenberger
Head Usher	Marjorie Dale
Acolyte	Wayne Dale
Lector	
Securing Offering	Marjorie Dale & Tana Vance
Communion Set-Up	
Communion Clean-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist	Ron Coldsmith & Linda Berberich
Attendance last Sunday	46

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory John & Hazel McKenzie who were married on Good Friday, March 25, 1932 given by Wayne & Marjorie Dale.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following: Bernie Harris, Bob Estep, Karen, Phil Johnson, Tim Tweedy, Missy Moreui, Becky Ensinger, Bobby Seilhamer, Sam Mull, Bonnie Hudson, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, Matthew, Lexi, and Booklyn Bowen, Nancy Marshall, Carol Rau and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.

Please Be Aware: We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

March 10 - Easter Choir Practice following worship

- 11 W&M 6PM
 - Council 7PM
- 12 Christian Ed 7PM
- 13 Lenten Service First Lutheran 7:00PM (Soup supper 5:30PM)
- 14 Choir Practice 7PM

Help is needed to set up and serve a luncheon on Thursday, March 14. See sign-up sheet in Sunday School room.

Solomon's Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 30 at 11:00AM at Solomon's Picnic Woods. All children 12 and under are invited.

If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Pastor Mike Allwein at 717-357-3814.

Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We conclude at 9:50 a.m., to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

Please consider signing up for altar flowers for the 2024 calendar year. There are a lot of available Sundays.

Cancellation Notification. In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce that our worship services are cancelled by sending an email to the entire membership who have email addresses. Also, the phone message on the office phone at the church (717-267-2266), will announce when services are cancelled. On a weekend, this will be done by 4:00pm Saturday. If you receive an email notifying you of a cancellation and if you know a friend who does not have email, please contact them. If the church office does not have your current email address, please let Kimberly in the church office know this as soon as possible, so it can be updated! Above all, safety is our most important concern, so please do not take any unnecessary chances.

If you are not taking your altar flowers home, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space. Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.