

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 10, 2024-Fourth Sunday of Lent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community.”

Augsburg Fortress Hymn License SBT003486/ CCLI-Copyright License # 1961276 & Streaming Plus License #20937714

**Welcome to Worship this morning!**

**To receive Holy Communion, you may come to the front and receive the bread and wine or grape juice, you may ask an usher to have the pastor bring the elements to you in the pew, or you may pick up the cup/wafer in the narthex before the service and commune yourself at your seat.**

**Reminder: We are videoing “live”.**

**If you need a hearing device, they are on the usher’s table.**



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.

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Ringing of the Bells, Lighting of Candles**

**Special Music “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”**

**Bell Choir**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Song “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”**

**Red Worship Book #335**

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

## **Greeting**

**Red Worship Book p. 203**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

**Red Worship Book p. 203**

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts!

## **Canticle of Praise**

**Red Worship Book p. 204**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray,

**C: 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.**

## **Special Music**

**“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”**

**Bell Choir**

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

**Donna Wachsmuth**

<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.

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

**Donna Wachsmuth**

<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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Red Worship Book p. 205**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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

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

**Pastor Carl Heidel**

[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.”

**P:** This is the Gospel of Our Lord

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

## **Sermon**

**Pastor Carl Heidel**

## **Hymn “What Wondrous Love Is this”**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

**Red Worship Book #666**

## **Prayers of God’s People**

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

**L:** Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.

**C: Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

**L:** gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**C: Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

**L:** They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.

**C: Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

**L:** You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

**C: Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

**L:** Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **Offering/Hymns                      "For by Grace You Have Been Saved"                      Red Worship Book #598**

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper

Text © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray,

**C: 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.**

## **Words of Institution**

**Pastor Carl Heidel**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Red Worship Book p. 208**

**C: 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.**

## Distribution of Holy Communion

Pastor Carl Heidel

### Communion Hymns

#### “Jus As I Am, without One Plea”

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Red Worship Book #592

#### “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

Red Worship Book #599

### Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

### Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

### Closing Song “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Red Worship Book #779

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

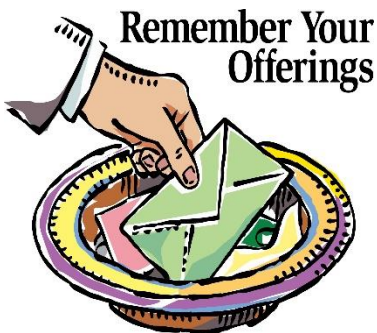
C: Thanks be to God.

Thank you to Pastor Carl Heidel for preaching today.



---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, March 10<sup>th</sup>



### Remember Your Offerings

The Church Council has asked to have monthly **GENERAL** giving totals for the congregation, to be put into the bulletin.

FEBRUARY Total: \$11, 587.56

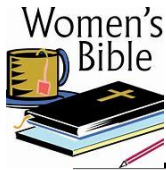
Our average giving for a month is \$12,000.00, so we are under by \$412.44, for the month.

Thank you ... Kathy Thompson, Financial Secretary

---

\*The Noisy Offering” for March: “Food Shelf” there will be a bowl as you exit the church.





# NO MONDAY WOMEN'S RUTH BIBLE STUDY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>.

## Announcements/Calendar

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor Carl Heidel.

**Mon.** NO WOMEN'S RUTH Bible Study: 5:30 pm All Boards.

**Tues.** 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

**Wed.** 11 am Library.; 4:30 pm Youth Choir; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 5:30-6 pm Confirmation eats; 6 pm Confirmation with mentors; 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Worship.

**Thurs.** 7 am Men's Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Men's Text Study; 9:30 am Quilting.

**Sat.** 8 pm AA mtg.

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship with blood pressure √; 9:30 am First Word Worship/HC/Pastor Deb Hansen-Carlson; Church Council; St. Patty's Day Dinner at FLC after Worship until 12:30 pm.



**Prayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~ Craig Moline (son of Sharol Huggett), David Shober, Larry Edin, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Lana Jensen, Judy Smith, and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeney).

**For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace. For our companion synods.**

**For our missionaries:** Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.



**We express our Christian sympathy to the family of John Seegebarth (son of Virgil and Joyce Seegebarth). May they know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and give them peace.**



**We have 6 red chairs and 1 gray chair looking for a new home, if interested contact Elaine Jensen.**





## Don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funds can help support organizations you care about.

Don't let your designated Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars.

Let Kathy Thompson know where you want the money to go, that way she has your verification of where it should go.

Help support First Lutheran.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836

---



Women on a Mission and the Faith Community Nurse will be collecting donations of any unwanted or unused medical supplies for Global Health.

Crutches, slings, dressings, walkers, canes etc.

**NO MEDICATIONS!!** Drop off at the Church and put in Women on a Mission closet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



---

## RESCHEDULED ALL-CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY BY EVANGELISM/STEWARDSHIP BOARD SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 24, 2024

No, it's not First Lutheran's birthday It's a celebration of all our birthdays! There will be food, fellowship and fun, Chili, cornbread, Cake and candles and Happy Birthday wishes to all.

Everyone is invited, from infants to centenarians.

**It's not a potluck,** but we need a few volunteers...

*More about that later!*

Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> following worship.



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
DINNER MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>  
AFTER WORSHIP UNTIL 12:30**

**CORNED BEEF POTATOES  
AND CABBAGE  
RUEBEN BAKE AND FUN  
ST. PATTYS TREATS**

---

