

## **St. Luke Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry**

### ***Holy Communion***

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024

10:00 AM

YOU are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church are called by God to be a community...because we believe we are one in God's eyes, we welcome the mix of ages, races, gender identities, physical and mental capabilities, and sexual orientations with which God's children are blessed. Everyone is invited to share in God's grace. We rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus--not our wealth, nor our poverty, nor our nationality, nor our political convictions, nor whom we love, nor anything else in all creation.

Everything you need for worship today is contained in this bulletin.

\*All are invited to stand as able. Items in **bold** are spoken or sung by the assembly.

***So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13***

*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.*

# GATHERING

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

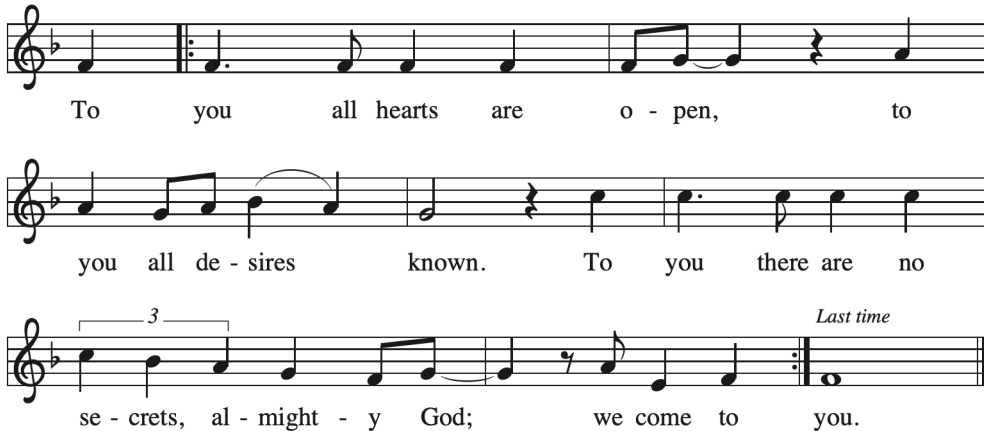
## PRELUDE

*Andante*

John Stainer

## WORD OF WELCOME

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *The following is sung three times:*



To you all hearts are o - pen, to  
you all de - sires known. To you there are no  
se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you. *Last time*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ... through Jesus. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: ... through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## \*PEACE

*The presiding minister will offer a word of peace and the assembly responds:*

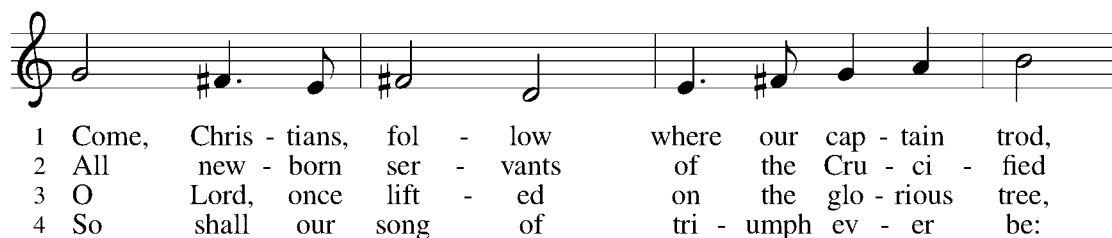
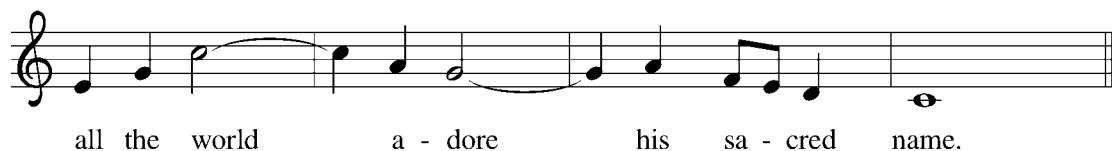
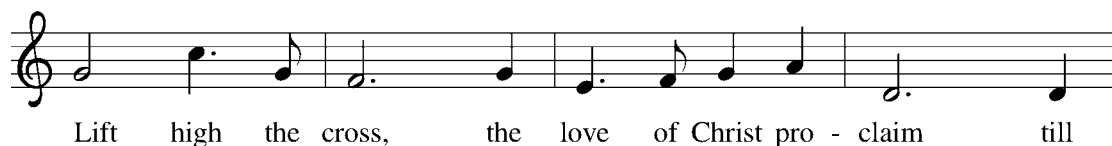
**And also with you.**

*The assembly may greet one another with signs of peace.*

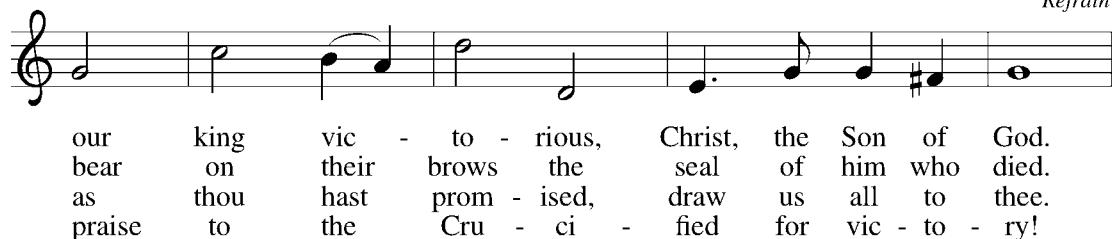
## \*GATHERING HYMN 660 Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

*Harmony is available for all of today's hymns in the hymnal in the pews.*



*Refrain*



## \*GREETING

*The presiding minister will greet the assembly and the assembly responds:*

**And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

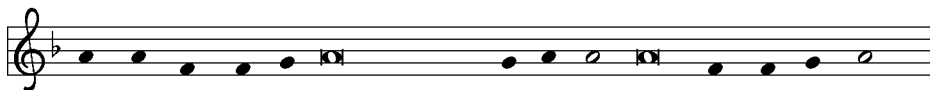
## Setting Five



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The assisting minister offers the prayer of the day and the assembly responds:*

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST 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; 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 the Lord 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 the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 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.” 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.

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

*The psalm is sung responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures 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 re- | bellious paths;  
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- | ner 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.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son  
and to the | Holy Spirit.  
As it was in | the beginning,  
is now, and will be for- | ever. Amen.**

## **SECOND READING**

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

You were dead through the trespasses and sins 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. 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. 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**

*The assembly sings the acclamation and repeats it after the choir proclaims the verse of the day.*



God so loved the world that he gave his | only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have e- | ternal life.

## **\*GOSPEL**

**John 3:14-21**

The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] “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 he gave his 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.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

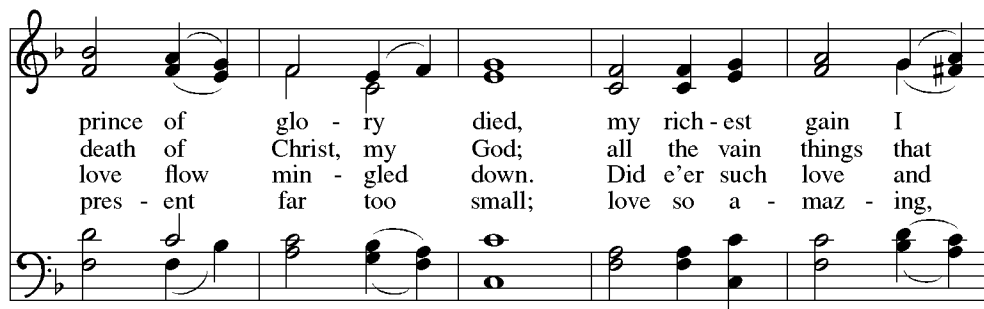
## **CHILDREN’S TIME**

## **SERMON**





1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## **\*APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION**

*The response to the petitions, which all end "Hear us, O God" is*  
**Your mercy is great.**

*After the pastor's concluding prayer, the assembly responds:*  
**Amen.**



## **MEAL**

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

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is taken to support the mission of the church and the care of those in need. An usher will bring a basket or plate to you, or you may drop your offering in the plates on the table near the back row upon entering or leaving. Offerings can also be made using the QR code or visiting [stlukeithaca.org](http://stlukeithaca.org) and clicking on "donate."*

## SETTING THE TABLE AND OFFERTORY

*For God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

### \*ASSEMBLY OFFERTORY SONG 185 Create in Me

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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*The assisting minister offers the offertory prayer, and the assembly responds: **Amen.***

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

### \*DIALOGUE

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

### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Setting Five

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.

### \*LAMB OF GOD

### Setting Five

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy

on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*At St. Luke, all are welcome to the table Christ without exception. Please make your way forward to the kneelers around the altar by exiting the center aisle and coming up the steps. To the right of the steps is a lift if you need assistance. As you gather around the altar you may stand or kneel, bread is received in your hands, let the presider know if you would like a gluten free wafer. Cups are available as you approach the altar. To return to your seats, please exit after receiving the wine or juice via the side steps and aisles, leaving the cup in the basket provided. If you wish to receive communion at your seat, please tell the ushers.*

## COMMUNION HYMN 592 Just As I Am, Without One Plea

WOODWORTH

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y a doubt, fight - ings with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## \*TABLE BLESSING

## \*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE O Lord, Now Let Your Servant KUORTANE



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The assisting minister will lead the Prayer after Communion and the assembly responds: **Amen.***

# SENDING

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

**\*BLESSING** *The assembly responds:* **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN 779** Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share Your Bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Sortie ("Exit Music") in F*

Leon Boellmann



## PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

St. Luke Ministers:	All the people of this Community
Assisting Minister:	Janelle Alvstad-Mattson
Reader:	Dave Wohlhueter
Ushers:	Brad Wendel and Karen Devito
Coffee Time:	LEAD Team
Music Director	Erik Kibelsbeck
Presider and Preacher:	Rev. Jason Churchill

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Anna and Dave Roberts in honor of Charlotte's birthday.*

**St. Luke Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of Cornell United Religious Works (CURW).**

Please visit [www.stlukeithaca.org](http://www.stlukeithaca.org) to sign up for email communication.

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## CALENDAR

Monday, Mar. 11	9am-1pm	Open Doors
Tuesday, Mar. 12	12:15pm	Bible Study
	1-3pm	Open Doors
Thursday, Mar 14	8:00pm	Compline at Immaculate Conception
Sunday, Mar. 17	10:00am	The Fourth Sunday in Lent

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:** Marjorie, Kathy, Keith, Ken, Sue, Phil, and Bill.

**FOOD ITEMS** for the Red Wagon for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard for March:  
Rice (white or brown) and/or potatoes (fresh or instant)

**LENTEN PROJECT, from the SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:** The Social Ministry Committee will be coordinating our usual Lenten project, assembling personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Rather than having many donors out shopping for supplies, we're trying something new: raising funds to purchase the supplies in bulk. We're asking the congregation to help us raise \$800 or more. Checks may be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plates marked Personal Care Kits in the memo section.

**ART FOR TAKAYNA:** Carl Whittaker has an art show on display in the hallway for the next few weeks. The show includes original art of Tasmania and mushrooms, and information about Tasmania, Art for Takayna/Tarkine, the Bob Brown Foundation, and the campaign to protect Tasmania's forests and other natural areas. Carl will offer a brief presentation about the show and the cause during coffee hour today.

### **EASTER BREAKFAST COOKS AND KITCHEN HELP SIGNUP**

It takes many people to make the Easter Breakfast possible! There was a signup link in the newsletter or you can use the paper ones in the narthex. Cooks are needed to prepare breakfast strata casseroles, baked French toast, baked goods such as buns, breads, coffee cakes, and breakfast meats. There are sample recipes available. Help is also needed to setup, serve, and clean up.

### **LEAD....LISTEN....LUNCH!**

Your LEAD Team sponsored a well-attended lunch after church on Sunday, March 3 where we enjoyed fellowship and conversation on St. Luke's core values. Thanks to the many hands who prepared our delicious food and to those who helped before and after with set up and cleaning.

As you know, LEAD has been listening (through focus group conversations, surveys and assessments) to identify the core values that define who we are now and what role we play in our community. On Sunday, we engaged in another opportunity to narrow down our core values. More than thirty of you participated in three fun-filled rounds of discussion where we reflected on more than 40 values. At the end of the day, eight values emerged: Sacramental, Intergenerational, Inclusivity, Joyful, Prayerful, Creativity, Liturgical, and Caring. These are in addition to the consensus core value: Music!

As we continue our LEAD journey, we hope to be led by our core values to discover how best to use our gifts to be God's hands and feet in the communities we inhabit. We are grateful for your continued support.

## UPCOMING READINGS

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

### *Monday*

Psalm 84

1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22

1 Corinthians 3:10-23

### *Tuesday*

Psalm 84

2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19

Hebrews 9:23-28

### *Wednesday*

Psalm 84

Ezra 6:1-16

Mark 11:15-19

### *Thursday*

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Genesis 9:8-17

Ephesians 1:3-6

### *Friday*

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Daniel 12:5-13

Ephesians 1:7-14

### *Saturday*

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Numbers 20:22-29

John 3:1-13

## THE READINGS IN THE BIBLE

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

Set as if it is baptismal catechesis for Nicodemus, this passage presents two images of the crucifixion: Moses' serpent in the wilderness and light in the world's darkness. Two uses of "son" also appear in this passage: the eschatological Son of Man, understood as coming to judge the world, and the begotten Son of God, come to save the world. By "world," kosmos, the evangelist means both the place and the time in which God's salvation is unfolding. It is good to remember the complexity of the verb "lifted up" in John's gospel: up on the cross, up from the tomb, and up to the Father. John's use of the story from Numbers is an early example of Christian interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures.

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

This multilayered narrative about human dissatisfaction with God's ways probably contains a memory of Canaanite goddess worship: Asherah was imaged as a serpent on a tree pole (see also Genesis 3), the serpent's shedding of its skin seen as a symbol of the renewal of life. Yet the Yahwist editor states clearly that it was God who healed the people. The poisonous snakes are described as "fiery," the same word used in Isaiah 6 about the seraphim. Second Kings 18:1-4 says that King Hezekiah destroyed the bronze serpent because it was being venerated as a deity. Having heard the story of the Israelites and the serpent, we respond by singing **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**. This thanksgiving psalm has turned the people's historical memories into praise. Today's excerpt reiterates the first reading, in which the people loathed the food that God was providing, but God rescued them, and us as well, from the grave.

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

Noticeably different in style from the undisputed Pauline letters and probably written in the late first century, Ephesians is to some degree a summary of Paul's theology: salvation is a gift of God's grace offered through Jesus Christ, and believers, who are one in Christ, are to live out their gratitude so as to build up the community of the faithful. This rhetorically magnificent selection from Ephesians contrasts death and life, this world and God's heavenly places, trespasses and grace, works and faith.

# **ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH and LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY ELCA**

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