



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Fourth Sunday in Lent                      March 10, 2024**

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis

Musician: Sheila Seidemann

Videographer: George Edis

Reader: Carol Hadland

Worship is live streamed on our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>.

*Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. 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.*

### **Weekly Prayer Petitions**

**Local:** Cornerstone Mennonite Brethren

**Synod:** Faith Lutheran, Powell River; Our Saviour's Lutheran, Prince George

**ACC:** The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers, Bishop, people, and clergy of the Diocese of Quebec

**ELCIC:** Bishop Jason Zinko, the people and rostered ministers of the Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Synod

### **Discipleship Opportunities**

1. We serve lunch Tuesday, March 12 at the Sr. Centre. Please join us to serve or eat.
2. Worship Team meets Tuesday, March 12 at 2:00.

3. The Pastor is Public at Javadotcup every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30AM.
4. Worship is at 7:00 PM each Wednesday during Lent focusing on the spiritual practice of lament.
5. Please forward those names and addresses of folks to invite to St. Paul's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. We need a list within the month. Save the date of May 4th for a sit-down dinner with the Bishop and May 5<sup>th</sup> for worship!

\* All Hymns and liturgical text reprinted under **One License**: # A-731124 and **Augsburg Fortress**: # SB157842

\* Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF # SB157842.

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## Announcements

### 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.

*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: 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 Hymn

### Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

No. 335

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;  
 till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

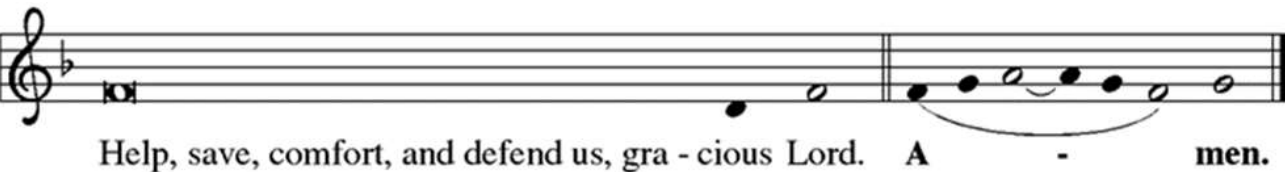
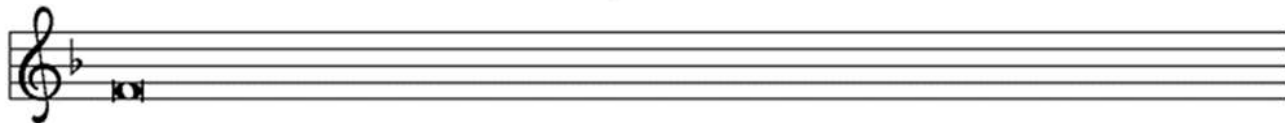
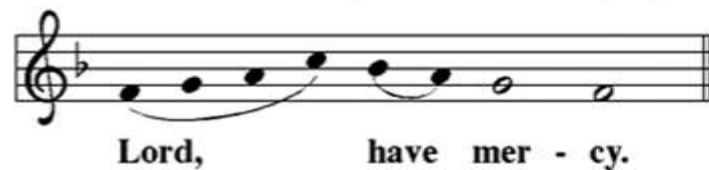
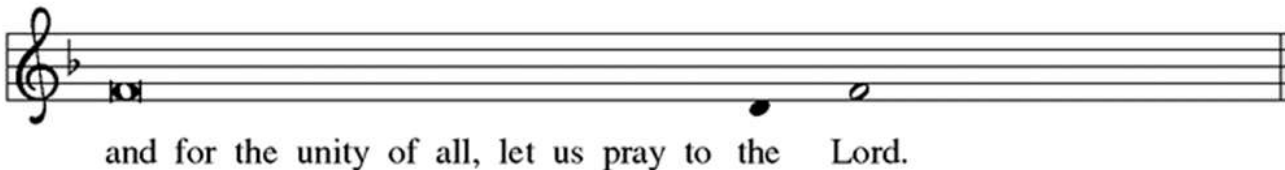
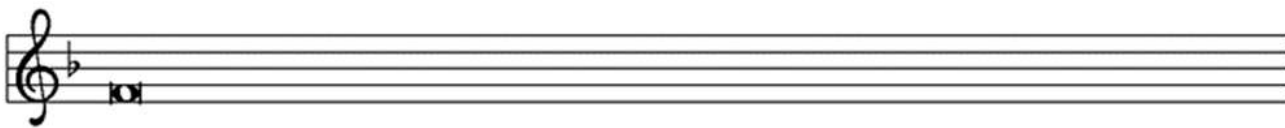
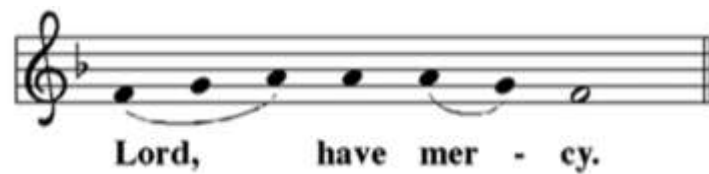
L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie*

pg 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Let us pray together our Prayer of the Day

**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.**

Our first reading is from Numbers, beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter

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.

The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

We read Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 responsively

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our second reading is from Ephesians beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter 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.

The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Acclamation*

*page 142*



The holy gospel according to John, beginning at the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

3:14-21

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 the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

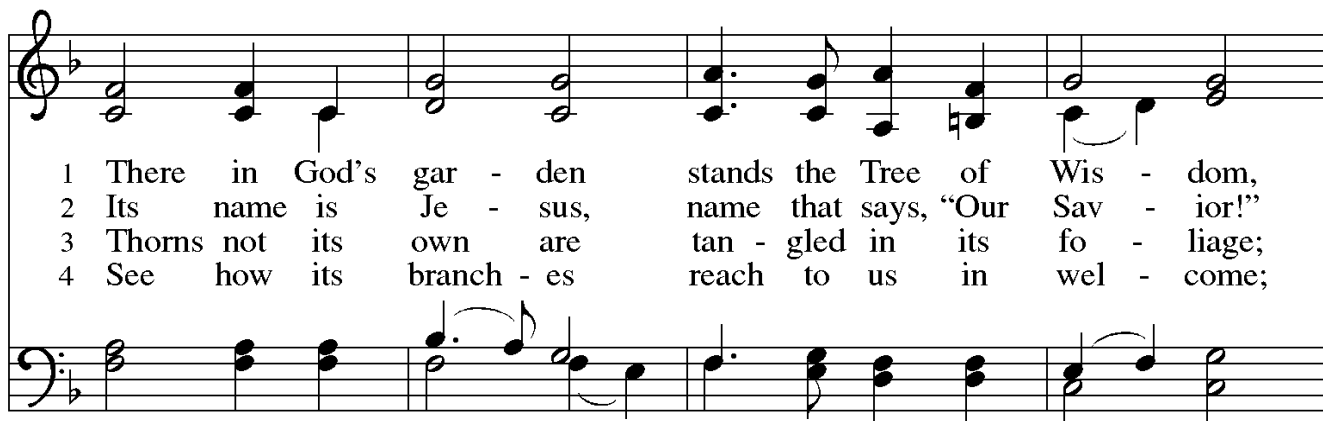
*Sermon*

*Rev. Diana Edis*

*Hymn of the Day*

*There, In God's Garden*

No. 342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions;  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

\*\*\*Additional verses on following page\*\*\*

5 This is my ending,  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982  
Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950  
Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.  
Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed. We confess:

**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 power of 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*

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. Hearing the words "Hear us, O God" God's people may reply, "your mercy is great."

*A brief silence.*

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



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. We pray now, either aloud or silently, for all those in our hearts and on our minds...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Offering*

*Offerings may be sent by e-transfer to [offering2stpauls@citywest.ca](mailto:offering2stpauls@citywest.ca)., mailed, placed in our mailbox, or given through CanadaHelps to St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.*

*Offering Prayer*

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.**

L: Gathered into one across time and space by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using whatever version of that prayer comforts you. We pray:

**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.**

*Blessing*

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.

**Amen.**

*Sending Hymn*

*O God of Mercy, God of Light*

No. 714

The musical score is written for four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 6 indicating different parts of the hymn. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus

mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and

in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
word and thought may work a work for you.  
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
may we each other's burdens share;  
may we, where help is needed, there  
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
all those who live to live in love,  
till you receive in heav'n above  
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.  
Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896; arr. hymnal version  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Go in peace. Share your bread  
**Thanks be to God.**