

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14th / March 15th 2021

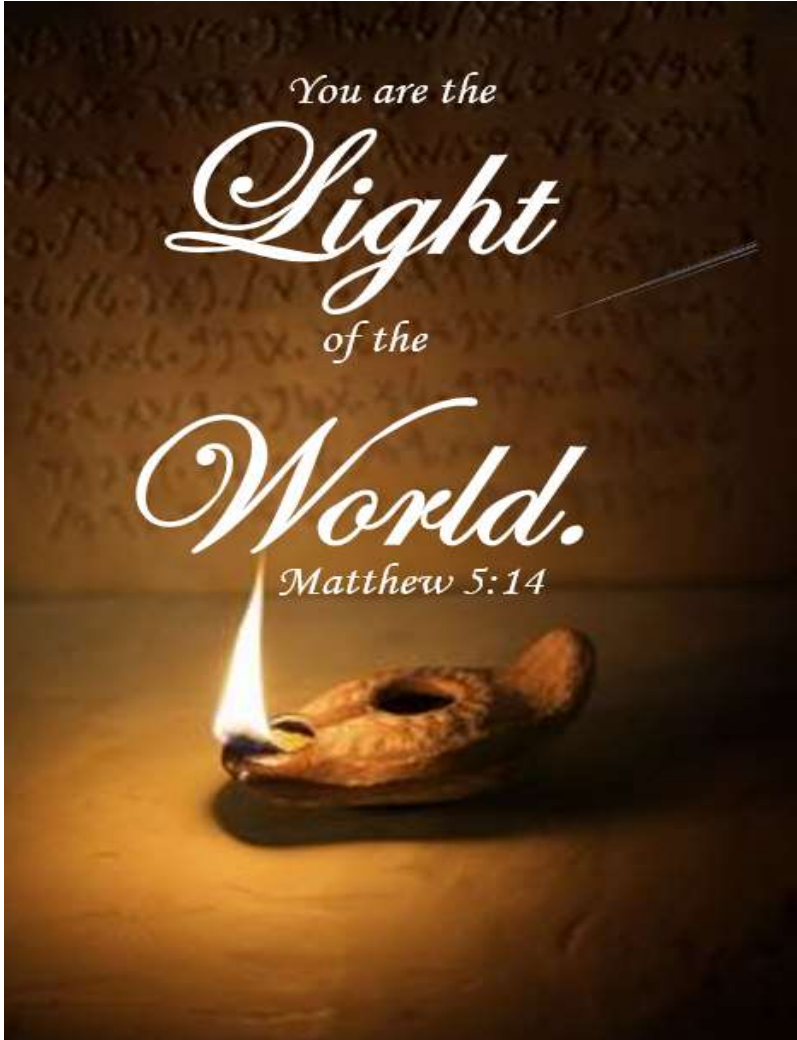
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

Please join us Sunday's at 8:00am & 10:00am Monday's at 6:00pm
If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch (715-587-8521)

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Confession of Sins:

P: Dear Christian friends, if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

C: Dear Lord, my God, I confess that I am, by nature, sinful. Sometimes I celebrate presents more than I celebrate your birthday. Sometimes I see Christmas more as about family than about you. I am too often more concerned about the state of my budget than the state of my soul or the souls around me. I am truly sorry for my sins; please forgive me.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: Jesus Christ, our Lord, lived, died and rose again for you. He has taken away your sins. He has opened the gates of heaven and prepared our way Home. He prepares us for His return and for our eternity with His Word and His Sacraments.

C: Thank you, Lord God. Strengthen us and bless us. Prepare us for our ministry here and for our journey Home to Heaven.

Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

How common is it for people to be ungrateful? How often do people complain? Way back in the book of Numbers, over 3000 years ago, the people of Israel were upset about how long the trip was taking and they were complaining about the food God was giving them.

People don't change much, do they?

God responded. His response is a taste of what the people deserved.

He sent venomous snakes—deadly ones.

That got their attention. And the people repented.

Moses prayed and God, amazingly, was gracious. He provided a cure, but he gave them a cure that required faith: Look at the snake on the pole.

Looking at a snake didn't make any sense. But, believing God's promises and his power did. Anyone who looked, looked because they believed God's promise. God kept his promise. He exerted his power and people were cured.

We would think that, after that, the people would have learned not to complain. We know better. People don't change much. People still complain—even in the middle of incredible blessings. They still suffer the consequences of their sin. And God is still gracious. He sent his Son to be the cure for sin. He crucified him on a cross in our place.

Now it's our turn to believe God's promise. By faith, we look to Jesus for our salvation.

Numbers 21:4-9 (EHV)

⁴They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result, many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So, Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” ⁹ Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Epistle Lesson

Did you ever feel the need for a change? You’ve fallen into a rut and need to shake things up a bit. Or maybe you’ve descended into depression and need to be lifted out. Some problems are thornier than others and some issues harder to solve.

Arguably, the hardest issue to solve is being dead. You can’t do a thing to help yourself and there is really no hope of getting better.

Unless God steps in.

We were dead in sin. Every problem we have, every issue we face is caused by sin. And it’s killing us. In fact, we were already dead. And then Jesus saved us; he made us alive even when we were dead in trespasses.

By grace—this isn’t from us. This is an outright gift from God. He took lifeless lumps of clay (us) and made us into masterworks of faith. We are God’s workmanship to do good works. God even prepared them for us in advance. Let’s live the life God created for us. Let’s glorify him today and forever!

Ephesians 2:4-10 (EHV)

⁴ But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶ He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷ He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

- 2 Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that justice gave

- 3 If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed;
See who bears the awful load —
Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

- 4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt —
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.

Sermon Text:

“I love you.” Those are powerful words. They can change your life when they’re said by the right person. When God says it, he can change your life, your soul, your heart, and your eternity.

God tells us he loves us often. He says it in the sunshine and in the air that we breathe. He says it in the love of Christian family and friends. He says it in the blessings he pours so generously into our lives. He said it most powerfully in his Son’s sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus is teaching Nicodemus heavenly things when he draws a parallel between Moses’ snake and the crucifixion of the Christ. Then he speaks about God’s loving the world so much that he sent his own son to save it. The snake was a reminder of sin. The snake lifted up by Moses was a reminder of God’s love and forgiveness. It was a foreshadowing of the greatest act of love in the history of the universe.

Jesus Christ lifted up on the cross is the ultimate expression of God’s love. His suffering is the punishment that we deserve. It’s a reminder of the greatness of our sin and guilt. At the cross we start to grasp the depth of God’s love. Jesus gives up everything for us. He suffers God’s wrath. He is the only one in history to have literally gone through hell for us.

After the darkness, Jesus brings us to live in the light. We have forgiveness here. We have salvation. We live in God’s love, now and forever in heaven.

John 3:14-21 (EHV)

¹⁴ “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather

than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹ But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Melanie Bell, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Sharon Malmstadt-Rupert, John Peters, Lisa Schmitt and Becky Schrank.

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: **Jesse Adams** (Sue Connor’s son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow’s godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson’s grandson), Dayton Godfrey (Dave & Cindy Schacht’s great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen’s cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston’s son), Patrick Noppenberg (Denis & Deb Vieth’s son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker’s husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela’s grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush’s nephew).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) **and David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The Lord’s Prayer:

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.

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

P: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Blessing:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with each other. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: *Amen.*

God Loved the World So that He Gave

(Hymn 391 vv. 1,6)

1 God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!



TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Matthew 5:16 - *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*