

Rethinking Religion

- Lent 1 Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations
- Lent 2 Rethinking Education
- Lent 3 Rethinking Suffering under the Cross
- Lent 4 Rethinking the Solution to Sin**
- Lent 5 Rethinking Devoted Commitment

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2024 ✕ 8:00 AND 10:15 AM

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

Rethinking Religion

In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turns the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down.

Lent 3 Rethinking the Solution to Sin

Not every religion uses the word "sin," but they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that our bad attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. In the end, this leads only to crushing guilt or a false pride.

True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us.

Saved by grace. Grace is God's unending love for people. It is a strange and shocking love because it is love for the unloveable and undeserving. God doesn't look for something lovable in us in order to love us...but as St. Augustine once wrote, God's love makes us lovable.



God is moved to save us purely by His love!



Sharing of the Peace

Sharing of Peace is an ancient Christian custom, originally referred to as the Kiss of Peace. Paul wrote to the Romans and the Corinthians and the Thessalonians: "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, 1 Thess 5:26). There are constant references in the following centuries to Christians sharing a holy kiss during worship, either after the Lord's Prayer or just before communing together as a sign of unity in the presence of Jesus, as Ephesians 4:3 calls us to: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eventually the kiss became a handshake with the words, "peace be with you" in most of the Western Christian churches. We'll follow this lovely ancient custom and say, "peace be with you" to those seated around us and perhaps offer a handshake during Lent as a symbol of our reconciliation to each other in the peace of Jesus and as an expression of our love for one another.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.*
Hymns not printed in this service folder are found in the blue hymnals in each pew. 

Hymn | 878 Christ Alone the World's Redeemer

Invocation

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for personal reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

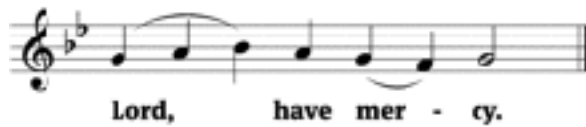
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



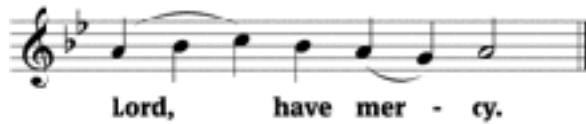
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Psalm Verse

Psalm 32:1

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

The congregation sings:

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

By His grace, God provided a solution to the pain that he himself had inflicted on the Israelites as a consequence of their sins. He sustains their physical life.

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no

bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the

LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze

snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

The congregation sings:

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble.

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD'S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in him.

**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 forever. Amen.**

The congregation sings:

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

From spiritually dead to alive in Christ forever by no effort of our own! That is grace and it is our story. The Lord has provided the solution to our sin. He gives us spiritual life.

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with

him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

The congregation sings:

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

The Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but receive God's gift of eternal life.

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's

one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day | 570 God Loved the World So That He Gave

Sermon Numbers 21:4-9 Bizarre Remedy: Look up and Live

Please stand

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Romans 10:10; Dt 6:4
Matthew 6:9; Ex 6:3
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
Colossians 1:16

Romans 10:9
Matthew 16:16
John 3:16
John 1:1,8:12,17:22
Colossians 2:9
John 1:2
John 10:30
Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3

1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23
John 6:41; Luke 15:20
Luke 1:34-35
John 1:14
Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18
Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53

1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6
Acts 1:9
Acts 7:55

Matthew 26:64
Acts 10:42; My 3:12
2 Peter 1:11

Jn 14:26; Acts 2:38
Genesis 1:2; John 3:6
John 15:26

Mt 3:16-17; Lk
Ez 11:5; 2 Pt 1:20-21
1 Peter 2:5; Eph 2:19-22
Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38
1 Co 15:35-49; 1 Thes 4
Psalm 106:48

Be seated.

Prayer of the Church

*After each petition, the minister prays, "Lord, in your mercy,"
and the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."*

Offering



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to (833) 693-7056. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

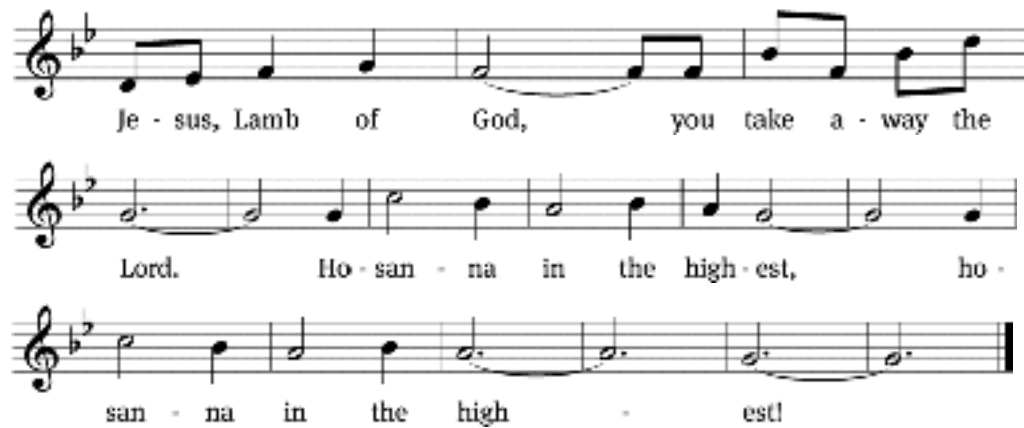
The Lord be with you.
And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through the all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with repentant joy as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen.

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 Our Lord Jesus

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Our Lord Jesus

(for more information on this practice we observe this Lent, see the inside cover of this bulletin)

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Extend to each other the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ as a sign of forgiveness and unity. "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." (1 John 4:7)

The congregation extends the peace of Christ by turning to each other, shaking hands, and saying:

Peace be with you.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us,
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us,
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

Hymn | 665 What Is This Bread

Hymn | 576 Amazing Grace

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Your ✝ sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn | 519 There Is A Redeemer



Thank you to Amy Sehloff for accompanying our worship with music this morning!

It's almost time to buy Easter flowers for our sanctuary. See Jill Peil if you'd like to donate money toward purchasing Easter flowers.

.....
Whenever we do anything merely because we have to, by compulsion, we are not acting as free sons and daughters of the kingdom. If we pay our taxes because we will go to jail if we don't, we act as slaves and not as God's free children, not as Peter and Jesus did when they paid their taxes together. The motive of Christian action is not force but love. We live from the Gospel, not from the Law.

Christ never gets behind His friends with a sword or a whip. He gets inside them with His love, a love that makes us free to want and achieve what God wants and plans. Therefore, Jesus goes to Gethsemane and moves toward the cross, not at the point of a sword but moved by love of God and love of us. "Willingly all this I suffer."

Love alone wins any worthwhile victory, and to do this it must be willing to forego force and to suffer. When a man strikes you with his fist or with his tongue and you strike back, you have been defeated by him. His enmity has won the engagement, and enmity is double. If he strikes and you do not retaliate, then enmity remains single and a little discomforted. By refusing to be made into his enemy, you have taken the first step toward love's victory of cleansing his heart of malice and making him your friend. Thus sin that sets us against each other is overcome. Only love can overcome sin, though it often means suffering long. The overcoming of the sin that divided us from God cost Calvary. Because it was love's victory, it achieved the true victory, not merely one of external appearances, which is the best force can do.

At times there is nothing left to us but the use of force. But when we use force, it is an acknowledgment of the failure of love. Only when love has exhausted its possibilities do we reluctantly resort to force. To protect against things getting worse, it can be a necessary but negative achievement. Positive good is the work of love. All our good hangs on Jesus going on to Calvary.

- Norman Nagel

Here we have come to a place that is holy,
The mountain of god,
The city of light.

Here is our Father, the judge of all people,
Who pardons our sins
And shows us his face.

Here we cross over from earth into heaven,
Receiving by faith
Things hidden from sight.

Here we are close to the saints gone before us,
Who rest in the light
Of God's holy place.

Here we can join with ten thousands of angels
Who lead us in praise
For what Christ has done.

Here we have Jesus, our one mediator,
Who brings God to us
And us back to him.

Here we are part of a worldwide assembly,
In which we are all
Joint heirs with God's Son.

Here is the blood that makes us sinners holy,
By giving us life
And washing us clean.

-John Kleinig