# March 10 FOURTH SUNDAY IN



# Worship at Good News

#### The use of ashes in Lent

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, ashes were used to remind us of the seriousness of our sins. The wages of sin is death. Everyone was invited to use the ashes to make a mark on the white cloth hanging on the cross. The ashes on the cloth on the cross are a visual reminder throughout the season of Lent of the only resolution of our sin. The sins of the whole world were laid on Jesus who gave his life as the perfect sacrifice and payment for all of them. Your sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross for you. Lent and all our worship reminds us of this beautiful truth of God's love and forgiveness.



#### Lent and purple

In ancient times, purple was an expensive color to produce because the cloth was dyed in the "blood" of a snail. Such a colorization process required much self-sacrifice, not only on the part of the snails but also by the purchaser of this expensive cloth (Acts 16:14). Jesus was robed in mockery in purple as he suffered under Pontius Pilate. Thus the use of purple was a symbol of penitence and our Savior's suffering and sacrifice. Purple is used during the 40 days of Lent. The Christian church uses the deep, rich color of purple to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer.

## Today's worship

Join us throughout the season of Lent as we continue worship in the theme: "The Road to Calvary Is a Collision Course." As Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem as our substitute and Savior, there are numerous obstacles along the way.

Today, we hear three incredible readings focused on God's grace, the key truth of all of God's Word. Jesus shares God love and God's plan to bring the spiritually dead to life by God's unconditional love through a free gift, not on the basis of our efforts.

# Order of Worship

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT

Based on Isaiah 43:19-21

Let us worship God,

who has done a new thing.

We rejoice in our God,

who made a way through the desert of this world.

Let us worship God,

who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ;

we proclaim his praise.

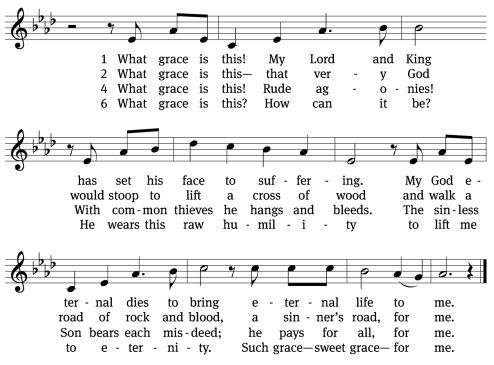
Let us worship our God who went to Calvary.

We praise God for his grace that has saved us.



#### **OPENING HYMN** What Grace Is This?

Christian Worship 395 sts 1-2,4 (6)



Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965

Tune: G. A. Hennig, b. 1966

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#### THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Most holy and merciful Father,

We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

#### Lord, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

#### forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

#### forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is against your will,

forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Silence for meditation and reflection

#### **ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and 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.

What Grace Is This?

Christian Worship 395 sts 6

6 What grace is this? How can it be? He wears this raw humility to lift me to eternity. Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

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.

## The Word of God

#### FIRST LESSON Numbers 21:4-9

God graciously provides a cure for the consequences of sin graciously sent when his people rebelled against him.

<sup>4</sup>They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup>they 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!"

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The 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.

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

#### SECOND LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

We have been brought from death to life by grace through faith — not by works.

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, ¬in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁶For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁰not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹ºFor we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

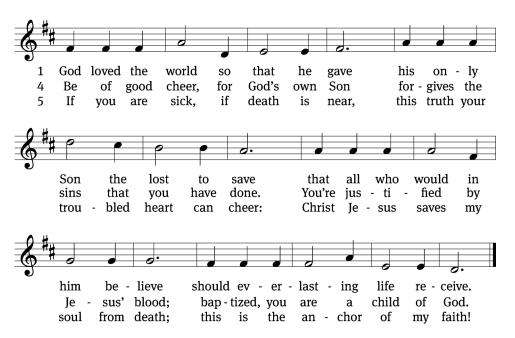
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 3:16

Christian Worship 570 God Loved the World So That He Gave sts 1,4-5

For 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. Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893



#### GOSPEL John 2:13-22

Just as the cross was necessary for Jesus, it is necessary for each person who follows him.

<sup>13</sup>When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup>So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

<sup>20</sup>They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

#### CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Since the second century, Christians throughout the world have joined in confessing their faith in the one true God using these words. It is known as the Apostles' Creed because it summarizes the teaching of the Apostles.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Christian Worship 523



Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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#### FOR FURTHER BIBLE STUDY

Numbers 21 It is near the end of the 40 years in the wilderness. Sinners living by the grace of God makes for a messy, conflicted situation. Whether in the wilderness 3500 years ago or here, today, in Utah. For an example of some of things going on at this time read Numbers 20 Water from the Rock & Numbers 22-25 Balaam and the temptation of the children of Israel.

Ephesians 2 This inspired letter was written to Christians living in one of the greatest of cities in the ancient Mediterranean world. Unlike several other letters from St. Paul, Ephesians does not address any particular false teaching or error. It is a beautiful expression of God's eternal purpose and grace and also the goals God has for his church. Read all six chapters.

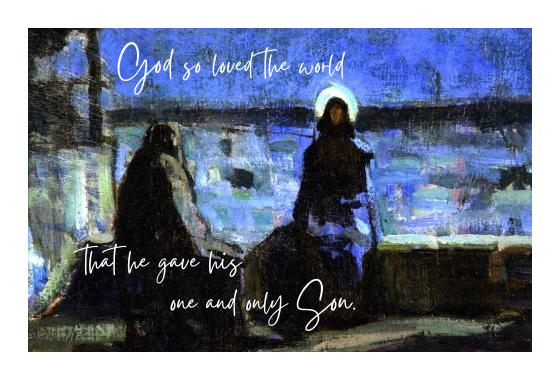
John 3 Begin reading John's Gospel at 1:19 through our Gospel lesson today and end at 3:21. You will get to read of John the Baptist pointing his disciples to Jesus, Jesus calling his disciples, Jesus' first miracle, last Sunday's Gospel lesson as Jesus clears the temple, and the context of John 3:14-17 as Jesus meets at night with Nicodemus.

# **SERMON**

Numbers 24, Ephesians 2, John 3

THE ROAD TO CALVARY IS A COLLISION COURSE -

GRACE IS FREE AND THE PROMISE SAVES



#### OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING AND OFFERTORY

The members of Good News have joined together to do our Savior's work in this community and around the world. Our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.

Electronic offering available through Vanco using the QR code.



#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

O Lord, in these days of Lent set our minds on the things of God rather than the things of man. Strengthen us through your Word to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow your Son through this life into the joys of his resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

O Lord, you have given your Church the joy of proclaiming the truth that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We have been justified by his blood and saved from the punishment for our sins. Grant all who preach and teach this saving truth the gifts of your Spirit to proclaim this boldly and faithfully, and help us to confess it in word and deed in our daily lives. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Eternal Lord, in view of every current distress as the present form of this world passes away, give constancy and contentment to your people in their God-given roles and places in life. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

O Lord, you rule over the nations, we pray you would bless our president, governor and all those who serve us in your stead, that we may be ruled wisely and in accord with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, turn us from every distracting anxiety and the dealings of this world that would draw our hearts away from your blessed Gospel and its end, eternal life. Give us confidence in the resurrection and the peace of a clean conscience by the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Graciously help those for whom we pray. Lord, in your mercy,

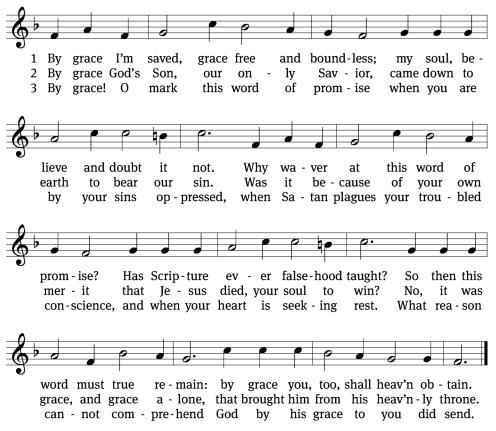
#### hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of your Son who taught us to pray:

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.

#### **HYMN** By Grace I'm Saved

Christian Worship 575 sts 1-3



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr. Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

Numbers 6:22-24

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** Christ Alone the World's Redeemer

Christian Worship 878 sts 1,3-4



Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964
Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse... Contradanseu, Amsterdam, c. 1710
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# Join us on the journey to the cross Good News Worship in Lent



NEXT SUNDAY Mar 17, 9 am

Commitment in Christianity

PALM SUNDAY Mar 24, 9 am

HOLY THURSDAY Mar 28, 7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY Mar 29, 7 pm

EASTER SUNDAY Mar 31, 9 am Easter brunch after





# THIS WEEK AT GOOD NEWS

#### TODAY

9:00 am Lent 4 worship service

10:10 am Bible study

#### **TUESDAY**

7:00 pm Bible study

#### **NEXT SUNDAY**

9:00 am Lent 5 worship service

Fellowship Sunday

## **COMING UP**

The most important week of Christian worship: HOLY WEEK, March 24-31

PALM SUNDAY Mar 24, 9 am with guest preacher, Prof. Jon Micheel

HOLY THURSDAY Mar 28, 7 pm with Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY Mar 29, 7 pm Service of Darkness

EASTER SUNDAY Mar 31, 9 am Easter brunch after



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you** to our guests for coming and checking out this incredible truth we simply call the Good News. On this day we have had the privilege of sharing this clear message of God's love and forgiveness. We are happy to have you here.

We hope you have found a place you also love to come to hear a message of peace, encouragement and comfort. If you would like more information about our congregation, please fill out one of the connection cards. You can leave connection cards on your chair or on the back table or hand it to our pastor.

If you would like to learn more about Jesus and the simple message of God's love in the Bible, we regularly offer a course of study about basic Bible truths — "Forgiven." Pastor can also find a time that works with your schedule.

#### THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who joined us for Midweek Lent devotion and dinner. Thanks for all the help for continuing to make Good News a welcoming place for our friends and guests.

#### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday Bible study Sunday, March 10 at 10:10 am

We are just two weeks away from the most important week of worship for Christians. Every year we remember the most important week in human history as we see our Savior reach the fulfillment of why he has come. To be the ransom for the sins of the world. To defeat all of our enemies, sin, the devil, and even death. Join us as we learn a little bit more about the events of that important week and the worship services for our benefit and growth.

#### Next Sunday, March 17

Fellowship Sunday — an opportunity for us to spend some extra time visiting with one another and enjoying the blessings of Christian friendship and family, God gives in a congregation.

#### PALM SUNDAY GUEST PREACHER

Sunday, March 24, we will have a special guest preacher shares God's word with us. Pastor Jon Micheel now serves as a professor at our church body's pastor training seminary in Wisconsin. Pastor Micheel previously had served as a pastor at Prince of Peace in SLC. Pastor Micheel and Cheryl are the parents of our member Emma Pflaum. We are excited to have them be with us on this festive day.