



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

INTRODUCTION

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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 11, 2018 AT 8:15 A.M.**



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:15 A.M.

MARCH 11, 2018

**Please stand if able*

P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

GATHERING

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Blessed Assurance"

Insert

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Gary Haddock

*GATHERING SONG

"Thy Word"

Insert

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: During the season of Lent, we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin.

C: **Wash me through and through from my wickedness. Cleanse me from our sin. My sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again. Sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Jesus came into the world to overcome sin, to justify sinners, and to send the blessing of the Spirit. Hear these words now as if they are from Christ himself: Your sins are + forgiven, you are made clean, your spirit is renewed.

C: **Amen.**

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: 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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*THE GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John. C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

John 3:14-21

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Rev. Gary Haddock

*SONG OF THE DAY

"The Wonderful Cross"

Insert

*APOSTLES' CREED

C: **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.**

*INTERCESSORY PRAYER

A: Lord in your mercy. C: **Hear our prayer.**

Linda Hewitt

MEAL

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY MUSIC

Piano, Ethan Campbell

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERTORY "Communion"

This is the body. This is the blood. Broken and poured out. For all of us.
And in this communion we share in His love. This is the body. This is the blood.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Linda Hewitt

A: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

*THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER V

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

C: 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.

The congregation sits. The following is sung: "Worthy Is the Lamb"

Worthy is the Lamb seated on the throne. Crown You now with many crowns. You reign victorious.

High and lifted up. Jesus Son of God. The darling of heaven crucified. Worthy is the Lamb. (Repeat 3X)

DISTRIBUTION

Holy Communion Invitation: We welcome all who are baptized to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion is served by Intinction. You will be given a wafer, which you then dip into the chalice of wine. If unable to come forward, stand where you are, and you will be served there. Children who are baptized are welcome to commune.

COMMUNION SONG

"Breathe"

Insert

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands and the presiding minister says these words:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **C: Amen.**

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Linda Hewitt

A: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. We give thanks for this gift and blessing of this meal which strengthens us for this Lenten journey. As you poured yourself out for us in this meal, may we pour ourselves out in proclaiming your love and serving our neighbors. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

*BLESSING P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*SENDING SONG

"Wade in the Water"

Insert

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Sound the good news. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in honor of Bill Dotson's birthday (March 10) by his family.

LITURGY -THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Gary Haddock

Assisting Minister: Linda Hewitt

Acolyte: Braeden Fox

Communion Assistants: Rocky Miller, Dale Sherrill

Praise Team Leader & Keyboard: Myra Long

Deacons: David Tucker, Carol Schaefer

Altar Guild: Janet Sigmon, Sue Karen Falls, Nicky & Evelyn Setzer

Tabulators: Ginger Carpenter, Jean Cloninger, Hilda Deal

Vocalists: Tim Carpenter, Tamarah Hefner, Allyson Sestric, Carol Schaefer

Instrumentalists: Allyson Sestric: Violin & Guitar; Mark Mashburn, Guitar; Aaron Carpenter: Drums

Tech: Carol Schaefer, Camille Patrick, Tamarah Hefner, Randy Sherrill, Terry Hefner, Tim Sigmon, Barry Bumgarner

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 550, 3216 W. Main Street, Claremont, NC 28610 (828) 459-2161

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30-4pm, Friday, 8:30-12:30pm (lisa@smarklc.org)

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

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

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.

JOHN 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.”