



Sunday, March 10, 2024

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.



“Living in the Midst of Snakes”

Pastor Steve Albertin

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**Call to Worship**                      The Battle Belongs to the Lord

### Announcements

\* (*indicates please stand*)

### \* Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open...through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God.... in the name of the Father, and of the W Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### \* Greeting & Passing of Peace

**Song**                                      Now the Feast and Celebration                                      ELW 167

### Prayer of the Day

**Song**                                      Speak O Lord

*please be seated*

**Lesson**                                      Numbers 21:4-9                                      Pew Bible pg 138

P: The holy Gospel according to St. John

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel**

John 3:14-21

Pew Bible pg 968

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.****Children's Message**

Pastor Steve Albertin

**Sermon**

"Living in the Midst of Snakes"

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- All of us become impatient when things have not gone our way.
- The Israelites express similar impatience with their life in the midst of their 40-year journey in the wilderness and complain.
- However, God's patience runs out and he sends an invasion of fiery serpents whose poisonous bites cause many to die.
- God sends the "poisonous snakes" to confront us with the truth of the futility of thinking we can simply go our own way.
- God instructs Moses to make a bronze likeness of those poisonous snakes and mount it on top of a pole. Then, when anyone is bitten by a snake, all he need to do is look at the bronze serpent on the pole and he will live.
- In today's Gospel Jesus compares Himself to that same bronzed serpent in the desert.
- As the bronzed serpent became the means by which God saved snake-bitten Israel, so also does Christ lifted up on the cross become the means by which God saves us.
- When we believe that promise, we HAVE the God of never ending patience. We can at last trust the patience of God in the midst of the snakes.

**\* Song**

Sanctuary

*please be seated***The Offering****\* Offertory**

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

**\* The Apostles' Creed**

ELW pg 105

**Prayers of the Church :** *(the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)*

Members:

Lee &amp; Wes, Craig, Kathy, Kay, Carole, Vickie, John

## Family & Friends

Ann, Bob, Pete, George, Carol, Linda, Jeannie, Joyce, Randall & Mary

### Communion

#### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

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!**

*please be seated*

### Distribution

*All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome at his table. There, they receive him and the new life he offers. Those who eat and drink at his table commit themselves to the care and redemption of all that God has made. If you are not baptized, contact Pastor Albertin to learn how you can receive the great gift God has for you in baptism. Today, you are welcome to join us at Christ's table.*

### Benediction

\* **Sending Song**

Ah Lord God

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**