

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Eternal Life and Love

March 10, 2024



AS WE GATHER

We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

Hymnal Page 420, verses 1 to 4

1. Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2. Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3. Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

4. Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *John 3:16*

Pastor: God so loved the world,
People: **that He gave His only Son,**

Pastor: that whoever believes in Him should not perish
People: **but have eternal life.**

Pastor: Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,
People: **and then to the resurrection and eternal life.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ's love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**People: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**

Pastor: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;
He will conceal me under the cover of His tent;
He will lift me high up on a rock.

**All: 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.**

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

KYRIE

Hymnal page 168

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 21:4–9

(Moses lifts up the bronze serpent to save the people of Israel.)

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And 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 loathe this worthless food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19*

(Let the redeemed of the LORD say so)

107 ¹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!
² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom He has redeemed from trouble
³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
⁵ hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.
⁷ He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
⁸ Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of man!
⁹ For He satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:1–10*

(We are saved by grace through faith.)

2¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:14–21*

(God so loved the world.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the Light and does not come to the Light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the Light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

Hymnal page 571, verses 1 to 4

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.

2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3. God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

SERMON

CREED

Apostles' Creed

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From thence 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions, we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief. Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “What Wondrous Love Is This” Hymnal page 543, verses 1 and 2

1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

People: **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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me”

Hymnal page 588

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong:
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets His little child come in. [Refrain]

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Pastor Scott Ganas at: (951) 795-8162, or
Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Scott Ganas
Greeter: Patricia Caballero
Reader: Christine Geltz
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske



PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Debbie Morrow: This former student from First Lutheran School (who is the niece of Pat Grabowski and Connie Kean) shall be receiving heavy duty chemo treatments for her cancer approximately every three weeks. Please pray for her cancer struggles to be healed.

Anna Rosteck: Pray for our new Missionary as she continues to deal with her various cancer issues. (She is Pat Grabowski's and Connie Kean's niece.) In addition, you may send Get Well greeting cards to her at:

709 42ndA Street North, Great Falls MT (Montana) 59405

Sunday Worship at Home

If you are unable to attend worship, you can listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740 each Sunday.

If you have a TV and can get DirectTV, Channel 377 you can view Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. For those people who have a computer, the Worship Anew worship service can be viewed via the internet at any time.



You may, also, access Pastor Scott's sermon online by going to:

<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY	TODAY – MARCH 10 (Daylight Saving time begins)
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship time
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study & Sunday School

WEDNESDAY	MARCH 13
10:30 a.m.	Mission Development Team meeting

NEXT SUNDAY	MARCH 17
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship time
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study & Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Board of Directors' meeting

FOURTH
Sunday
IN **LENT**

A decorative graphic of a thorny branch, likely representing the crown of thorns, rendered in a light purple color. It is positioned at the bottom of the page, partially overlapping the word "LENT".