

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "Lift High the Cross" Hymn 660 (verses 1, 3, 4)

Refrain

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

1.

Come Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

3.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Refrain

4.

So shall our song of triumph ever be;
praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who
draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world.
God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and
restores the promise of life through +Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: 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.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,^[a] to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵The 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." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous^[b] serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous^[c] serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So 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.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

From Death to Life

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, ^[a] following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ^[b] **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, ⁴ but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ^[c]—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places ^[d] in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ^[a]

¹⁶ “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.

¹⁷ “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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light

and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ 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.”^[b]

Sermon “DUMPING OUR TOXIC TRASH”

Sermon Hymn “Above All” CCLI Song # 2672885 Words and music by
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Above all powers above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has even known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There’s no way to measure what You’re worth

Crucified and laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has even known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There’s no way to measure what You’re worth

Crucified and laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father God, we were made for good works. In Ephesians, Saint Paul says, *"For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* But like the Israelites in the wilderness, after their escape from Egypt, we complain about our fate. We grumble about our lives, questioning God. We are truly subject to God's wrath. ***Lord in your mercy...***

But when we see what God could have done to us because of our propensity to sin, like the Israelites, we see from a different perspective. We realize that God is not a divine taskmaster, but a gracious Heavenly Father. With Israel we say, *"We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord...."* We ask God to take away our punishment; and when we repent, God does. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. All humankind has rebelled against its loving Creator. Ephesians continues: *"You he made alive, when you were dead, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air...[yes,] we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."* But God made *"us alive together with Christ...that...He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us.... For by grace, you have been saved through faith."* ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and growth in God's grace. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

Our secure position in Christ is declared by the Gospel, *"The light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil... But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God."* We claim Jesus' powerful words, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.

Amen.

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music

"The Wonderful Cross" by Chris Tomlin, Isaac Watts, J.D. Walt, Jesse Reeves, Lowell Mason (c 2000 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; CCLI Song #3148435)

Choral Ensemble

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024

Scripture Reading: John 3:14-21

Trying to live a successful life without God is like being a light bulb and trying to light up without being plugged in. Impossible. —Anon.

Greg McKeown is the author of *Effortless: Make It Easier to Do What Matters Most* — a *New York Times* bestseller.

In a blog post called “The Most Important Hour Of Your Life,” he tells the story of the German psychologist Jan Souman, who took some research-study participants to the Sahara Desert and told them to walk in a straight line.

Easier said than done. Have you ever tried it over a long distance? McKeown reports that “[Some] of them walked on a cloudy day, with the sun hidden behind the clouds [and with no reference points in view]. ... [They] all walked in circles, with [several] of them repeatedly crossing their own path without noticing it.”

But some had little or no difficulty. The reason? They walked while the sun was shining, and kept a faraway reference in view. “These ... followed an almost perfectly straight course.”

He concludes, “In other words, if we can identify what is most essential and keep our eyes fixed on that it can help us from getting too far adrift.”

It rings true, doesn’t it? Walking toward the light helps us to walk the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life. The apostle Paul told the believers at Philippi, “This one thing I do ... I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

When we try to live right, act right, do right only according to our own wisdom, we might end up walking in circles, as though we were walking at night without the benefit of the moon or the North Star.

We need the guiding light of Scripture and the Living Word, Jesus Christ himself, to make our paths straight. The writer of Hebrews got it right, “Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus”! (Hebrews 12:1-2a).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I know from past experience that when my eyes stray from you to the cares of this world, I soon lose my way. Help me to have single-minded vision. In your name. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

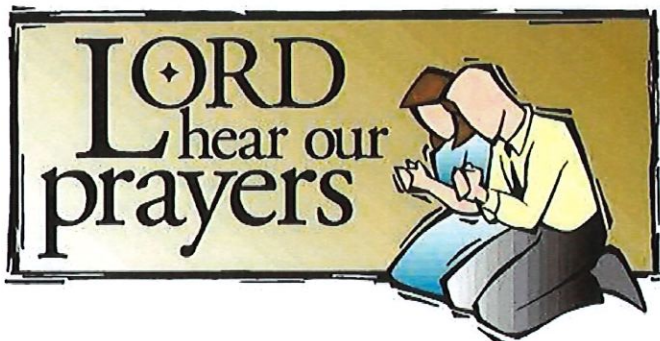


Members in Need of Prayer:

Jennifer Neer
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
father, Ken.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

David Torres has passed away prayers
for his family and friends.
Julie Gonzales has passed away prayer
for her family and friends.
Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)
Owen (Fake)
Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)
Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
Song Leaders and Congregation

Hymn 857

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises,
I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.
(Sing twice)

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano



Week of March 10, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Leviticus 20-23
Monday: Leviticus 24-27
Tuesday: Mark 1-3
Wednesday: Mark 4-6
Thursday: Mark 7-10
Friday: Mark 11-13
Saturday: Psalms 25-28

VOW TO FIND A VOWEL!

Directions: We'll not only give you a vowel, but we'll give you a lot of them. The words in this brain-cruncher have vowels in unusual arrangements. See if you can guess the words from the clues provided. Find the secret message by transferring the circled letters to the appropriate spaces. Remember that the circled letter may be a vowel.

1. Brave: ○ _ _ _ _ _ E O U _ _
2. A dark profile: _ _ _ ○ O U E _ _ _
3. Circular: ○ O U _ _
4. Running away: _ _ _ E E ○ _ _
5. Savage, fierce: _ _ _ I O U ○
6. Strange, odd: _ _ U A I _ ○
7. A person from the 50th state: _ _ _ A ○ I A _
8. Compress, push together: ○ _ _ U E E _ _
9. A large tree in California: ○ _ _ _ U _ _ I A
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: _ ○ _ _ O E I _ _
11. Upright, moral and righteous: ○ _ _ _ _ U O U _
12. Lining up in a row: ○ U E U _ _ _
13. Gorgeous: _ _ E A U _ _ E ○ U _
14. Precipitation: ○ A I _

Secret Message:
Write here in the
space provided.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

RIDDLE

A family lives in a large tower apartment building, 10 floors high. Every day, their son takes the elevator from the family's apartment on the 10th floor to the ground floor and goes to school. When he returns in the afternoon, he uses the elevator to get to the fifth floor, and then uses the stairs for the remaining five floors. Why?

ANSWERS: 1. courageous; 2. silhouette; 3. round; 4. fleeing; 5. vicious; 6. quaint; 7. Hawaiian; 8. squeeze; 9. sequoia; 10. canoeing; 11. virtuous; 12. queuing; 13. beauteous; 14. rain. **Secret Message:** CHRIST IS SAVIOR. **Riddle:** Because the little kid cannot reach buttons higher than 5.

For God so Loved



HE GAVE HIS

ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM

Shall not Perish but have

Eternal Life

JOHN 3:16



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Soup Suppers, Wednesdays @ 6:15

Please consider making soup for your church family on the remaining Wednesday of Lent: **3/20**. You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup or use the kitchen on a Sunday morning to make it for the following Wednesday. Typically we need enough soup for 15-20 people, along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering. The O'Sullivan's have signed up for 3/13 and will bring their world famous potato leek soup with soda bread! Many thanks to Deb Wilk and Lisa Kossow for so deliciously covering our Wednesday meals for the first two weeks of Lent!! There is a sign up sheet on the usher's table. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.



Easter Lily Order



The cost will be \$20.00 each. We would like to offer you the opportunity to order one or two either in memory or in honor of someone. Please pick up an order form from ushers table. You can include the \$20.00 per lily in your envelope, just indicate how many lilies you'd like to order. March 24th will be the last day to order. Thanks, Carol S.

GSLC Lenten Wednesdays

For all the Wednesdays of Lent we will be offering food for the body and soul. 6:15 Soup Supper in Jacobson & 7-8 Adult Class with Pastor Ted or Kids Time with Julie. Please plan to make Wednesday nights @ Good Shepherd part of your Lenten journey this year. Come and be fed!



OWLS March 18 @ 12PM



OWLS will soar to Sandy's on March 18, Monday. A NOON potluck of hoots and hollers will have every piece of tableware provided. Hopefully we can finally play Crazy 8's and UNO this time.

2024 Lenten Project & St Patty's Day Potluck on Sunday, March 17!



Most years our Christian Education team likes to come up with some sort of creative activity or craft during Lent that we can make and then use to enhance our Easter worship. This year we will be making butterfly and Easter egg magnets. Please plan now to join your church family for this activity along with an Irish themed potluck on 3/17 after worship.

You can cook or bake whatever you like, of course, but we thought it would be fun to have a little St Patrick's Day theme for lunch since it falls on Sunday this year. Don't forget to wear green and get your Irish on! You can cook or bake whatever you like, of course, but we thought it would be fun to have a little St Patrick's Day theme for lunch since it falls on Sunday this year. Don't forget to wear green and get your Irish on!



Egg-Stuffing and Decorating Jacobson on Saturday, 3/30 @ 10 a.m.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join together to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast on Saturday, March 30th. We will meet at 10 a.m. in Jacobson and decorate the tables as well as stuff all the Easter Eggs for the hunt on Easter morning. All help is much appreciated! Please contact Julie with questions and to confirm your attendance. Thank you.



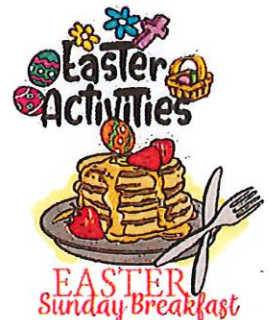
Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, 3/31 @ 11:00! Collecting Wrapped Candy, etc.



We will once again host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter Sunday this year in the courtyard after the 10AM service. We are collecting **wrapped** candy, stickers, coins, etc. to use to stuff the eggs on Saturday, 3/30. If you can donate toward this fun tradition, please bring in your items and place them in the appropriate bin. We have PLENTY of plastic eggs to stuff, so please don't bring any more of those. Way to go with the reusing, friends!

3/31/24 GSLC Easter Schedule:

Sunrise Worship Service @8AM, Outside at the Cross
Breakfast Served, 8:30—10AM, Jacobson Hall
Easter Worship Service @ 10AM, Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt @ 11AM, Court Yard



Looking for Easter Breakfast Help 3/31

We need some kitchen help Easter morning flipping pancakes and serving plated breakfasts. Volunteers will be needed from 7:45-9:45, which includes both prep and cleanup. People are welcome to stay the entire time period or just an hour, and all ages are welcome. Please sign up on the clipboard so we can make sure we are fully staffed. **Also, we are hoping to include egg casseroles this year as part of our breakfast.** Please contact Julie @ 559-287-3457 or 13jdx-on13@gmail.com if you would like to make one to share with your Good Shepherd family. You can bring it by Saturday between 10-12 to bake here or Easter morning by 8:30 if already baked at home.

Hallelujah Chorus Sing



The Worship Service for Easter Sunday, March 31, will close by singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah*. Anyone from the congregation is invited to sing this beloved choral number as we lift our praises to Our Risen Lord!. Music will be provided.

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow.



It's Girl Scout Cookie Season!



Girl Scout Cookies are available until April 5! You may go to <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html> or email Sheri Eggebraaten at massagesbysheri@aol.com or if you prefer, you may call Sheri at 559-903-1851 to place your order. They even deliver your cookies! The cost is \$6.00 a box.

Here are the cookies for 2024: Adventurefuls, Caramel Chocolate Chip, Samoas, Do-si-dos, Girl Scout S'mores, Lemonade, LemonUps, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, Toast-Yay!, Trefoils.

FYI—Looking for a Car

We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions speak to Mary N.



Bring a Friend to Worship



There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.

Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.



Community Concert



The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform in Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. From the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Visit ConcordiaTickets.com for tickets. For more information see the poster on the breezeway bulletin board. For any questions contact Susan Berg by email at: bergkenneth@comcast.net.