

# Order of Worship for March 14, 2021

## The Season of Lent

**Prelude by Shirley Bergman**

**Welcome**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

***Silence is kept for reflection.***

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us.**

**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined**

**and mend what we have torn.**

**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**

**Make us alive in the Spirit**

**to follow in the way of Jesus,**

**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **KYRIE (spoken)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **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.**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

#### **Numbers 21:4-9**

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

4From 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. 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 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 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.

**2Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

3gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**17Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

18They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.

**19Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

20You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

**21Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

22Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

The Holy Gospel according to St John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today’s first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] 14“Just 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, 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. 18Those 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. 19And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21But 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.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC by Shirley Bergman “Amazing Grace”**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Grant wisdom and endurance to essential workers, medical personnel, and all who are struggling during this time of pandemic. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, especially those who are struggling due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, using waves or peace signs.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,

with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.  
Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they have with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC by Shirley Bergman “Christ the Life of All the Living”**

### **Blessing**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

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**GIVING 3/7:**

- CURRENT:	\$ 1,260
- BENEVOLENCE:	\$ 322
- IMPROVEMENT:	\$ 125
- EWALU	\$ 177.50
- LSI	\$ 177.50

CHECK REGISTER:	\$ 11460.54
LOAN:	\$ 3077.27