

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME: Jesus, as our light, is bright enough to overcome our darkness.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

A WORD ABOUT OUR WORSHIP TODAY

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

C: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C: Teach me Your paths.

Psalm 27

CONFESSING TO GOD

P: The paths of God begin with an honest evaluation of ourselves. God is our light, but often it has been the dark paths of sin that we have chosen to travel. During this moment of silence we reflect upon our need for God's help.

Silent Reflection

P: We confess.....

C: Lord, you have called us to follow you. Instead of following you, we have gone different ways. Forgive us this day for the times that we have intentionally wandered away from the paths You would like us to go. Forgive us too for those times that we have unintentionally wandered causing harm to ourselves and to others. Give us a new heart with Your forgiveness. Continue to shine Your light in our lives!

P: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son." God is rich in mercy and is always generous with forgiveness. Receive God's light today through the forgiveness of your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by Jesus' authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN "Green Book" 241 **We Praise You, O God**

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: Heavenly Father, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

The Lord provides a way for the people to be saved

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. 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." Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 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. 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." 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.

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

God saves us even when we are dead in our trespasses

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in 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—among 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. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in 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 coming ages 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 a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

[Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21](#)

God is generous with His grace in that He loves the world

And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever 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. And 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. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But 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.”

[CHILDREN'S MESSAGE](#)

[SERMON SONG](#)

[Shine, Jesus Shine](#)

**Lord, the Light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.
*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.***

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

SERMON

"God.....loved.....the world"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

OFFERING (We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHOIR ANTHEM

Feast of Grace

By Ruth Elaine Schram

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 him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Red Book" 135

Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from His throne
unto His own who His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify. Come glorify Christ Jesus the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory power and praise.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died now glorified, King of all kings.

"Red Book" 78

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,

Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim "My God how great thou art!"
*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

A CLOSING BLESSING

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!