



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Agnus Dei"

Bizet

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For he didn't consider equality with God something to be grasped, but he emptied himself, even unto death on a cross. As we wait for the day of resurrection let us look to Jesus.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

All: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Liturgist: Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

All: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

Liturgist: Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirst, and fills the hungry with good things.

Psalm 107:1-9

* **All Singing: 691 "Amazing Grace"**
Singing verses 1, 2, 4, and 5

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing: 608 “Salvation Belongs to our God”**

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reconciliation

Liturgist: Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

All: They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

Silent Confession and Reflection

Liturgist: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

All: He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Liturgist: Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

Psalms 107:17-22

Choir: “God So Loved the World”

Stainer

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through Him might be saved.

Liturgist: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

All: All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Liturgist: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

All: And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Liturgist: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.

All: For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1-10

* **All Singing: 689 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: John 3:1-21

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Red Letters at Night

Choir: "When Memory Fades" by Jayne Southwick Cool, arr. Eric Nelson

A hymn written for a friend's mother with Alzheimer's and father with failing health, but knowing that the memory and strength of God never fades

When memory fades and recognition falters,
When eyes we love grow dim, and minds, confused,
Speak to our souls of love that never alters;
Speak to our hearts by pain and fear abused.
O God of life and healing peace, empower us
With patient courage, by your graced infused.

As the frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish,
In weary arms, which worked their earnest fill.
Your aging servants labor now to finish....
Their earthly tasks as fits your mystery's will.
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing,
Your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

Within your spirit, goodness lives unfading.
The past and future mingle into one.
All joys remain, un-shadowed light pervading.
No valued deed will ever be undone.
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings.
Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.

When memory fades and recognition falters,
Your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

* **All Singing: 770 "In Christ Alone"**

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. PASS

OFFERTORY "Amazing Grace"

Jack Schrader

* **All Singing: 604 "To God Be the Glory"**
Singing verses 1 and 3

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending

* BENEDICTION

* **All Singing:** **876** **“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”**
Singing verses 1 and 3

Postlude: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Gordon Young

Worship Leaders

Organist / Pianist: Dora Diephouse
Vocalists: Lisa Dykstra
David Baar
Violin: Bethany Keely-Jonker
Percussion: Clay Carlson
Choir Director: David Baar
Minister: Roger Nelson

Acolyte: Elouise Keely-Jonker
Liturgist: Dave Larsen
Prayer: Kara Van Marion

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