



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2021

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road S.E.

Ft Myers, FL 33905

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. The symbol of a snake on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week plan an act of thanks and

appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community.

Martin Luther referred to John 3:16, the *Scripture Verse for this Week*, as “the gospel in miniature.” “*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.*” This week light a candle and read the *Daily Bible Reading* each day, then say the *Prayer for the Week* and a word of thanks for how God shows love to you and the world. End by saying: **Remember that you are God’s, and to God you shall return.**



IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say and do as we serve Him and live in Christian love with one another.

If you would like to learn more about this church, or are looking for a church family, please talk to our pastor or one of the ushers or elders. They

would be happy to talk with you! Regardless of whether you join or not, we welcome you and your family to worship with us any time! Please sign our guest register in the lobby and fill out the Communication Card in the bulletin and place in the offering plate in the Narthex. Please include your local contact information and email.

Members, please fill in your name for attendance. Thank you!

Should you have something we could privately pray about for you this week, we invite you to let our pastor or one of our members know so we can seek the Lord's face together.

Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

837 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

(Stanzas ref-3)

**ref 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

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.
Refrain

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
Refrain

(please rise)

✠ CONFESSIOIN AND ABSOLUTION ✠

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

PIf we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CBut if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

PLet us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CMost merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and

walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

Psalm 107:1–9

Book Five

Let the Redeemed of the LORD Say So

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

C Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

P and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

C Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;

P hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

C Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

P He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.

C Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast
love,
for his wondrous works to the children of
men!

P For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

(please rise)

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 21:4–9

The Bronze Serpent

⁴From 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. ⁵And 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.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And 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. ⁸And 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.” ⁹So 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:1–10

By Grace Through Faith

¹And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(please rise)

♪ALLELUIA AND VERSE♪ (LENT)

☩ Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14–21

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

☩ Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “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.

For God So Loved the World

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 deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

G**Praise to You, O Christ.**

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

837 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

(Stanzas ref, 4–6)

**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim**

Till all the world adore His sacred name.

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.
Refrain

**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

SERMON

"From Death to Life"

. . . Pastor Karl

(please rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ I believe in 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

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

OFFERING

♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪

805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

△ **1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

[P] Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

[C] 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.**

(please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

895 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

1 Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts

And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!

△ 3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

This Week's Calendar



TODAY, SUNDAY ~ MARCH 14, 2021

11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and
Confirmation Class



TODAY, SUNDAY ~ MARCH 14, 2021

Church Council will meet today after Bible
Class



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ MARCH 17,
2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES



SUNDAY ~ MARCH 21, 2021

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Confirmation
Class



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ March 24,
2021 at 10:30 a.m.**



Flower Calendar: The 2021 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. The flowers decorating the chancel at Bethlehem are placed there as an act of worship and devotion to glorify God. They are also, an expression of the beauty and goodness of God. Members of the congregation may donate altar flowers as an expression of thanksgiving to God, in remembrance of departed loved one, on the occasion of a special event, such as a baptism, birthday, wedding anniversary, or simply to praise God. If you wish to donate flowers for use on the chancel, the cost is \$40.00 for two vases, if you would like to just purchase 1 vase at \$20.00 that's okay, but please put up there 1 vase and someone can sign up with you for the other. It is also tax deductible. Please place money in an envelope marked flowers in the offering basket.



Birthday Greetings!!

3/16: Patricia Kulbacki,

3/17: Jennifer Morosey, Rudy Rugenstein,

3/18: Carol Laser; Norma Martin



Anniversary Greetings!!

3/15: Terri & Richard Gerlach (53yrs.)



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* by Doug Johnson in loving memory of † Pamela Johnson

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$8928

Expenses: \$9080

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 52



Air Conditioning Fund:

Air Conditioning Fund: The air conditioning units for the sanctuary were installed about 15 years ago. They have required more frequent maintenance and repair in the last year. We have begun raising funds to replace these units. The estimated replacement cost is approximately \$25,000. We have raised \$7350 so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund”.

Prayer Chain: Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like it's just too much. If you are experiencing

situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, you may give your prayer requests to Linda Kirsch 239-693-5026 or e-mail: jlkirsch3@comcast.net or call or email Linda if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain. "Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy."



Bertha Bos

Vi Hacker

Harrison and Joyce Kimbrell

Jan and Emy Larson



Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Gary and Sandra Lohr

Reader: Pam Rugenstein

Acolyte: Raul Puga