

***The Serpent in Life***

***4th Sunday in Lent***

**March 15th, 2015**

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Truman MN**

**Service of the Word**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship, ELW p. 211**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

 Office Phone 776-4781, Fax 776-7888, Office Hours: Mon-8-11, Wed 8-11 & 1-4, F-8-11 am

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 Office Hours Mon—Thurs 9:00-1:00 pm **GATHERING**

*Congregation reads* ***bold print*** *\*Please stand*

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING REFLECTION**

*GRACE. God’s Redeeming Action (in the) Christ Event. If you are like most people, you will only see Good Friday and Easter, and the affect in the culmination of time, in that word and phrase. Yet, there is more going on between those three days and the eternity to come. Through the “Christ Event,” God IS at work redeeming more than sinners, God is also redeeming the daily events within the sinners’ lives. Through Christ, God IS redeeming broken lives, relationships, and whatever else bites in your world. In the suffering of daily life, God is present making good out of bad and healing the brokenness caused by sin. Redemption isn’t only something stored up for the world to come, but something we may also enjoy now.* **Redeeming God, enter into my brokenness and make me whole. Amen.**

**BELL**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *left-column* ELW p. 211**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *The Glory of These Forty Days* **ELW #320**

**\*KYRIE ELW p. 213**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY L: The Lord be with you C: And also with you.**

L: O God, rich in mercy,

**C: 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, so 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.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)**

4From Mount Hor they 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22**   *(read responsively* ***bold type****)*

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
    **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
**those he redeemed from trouble**

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

17Some were sick through their sinful ways,
    **and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**

18they loathed any kind of food,
    **and they drew near to the gates of death.**

19Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
    **and he saved them from their distress;**

20he sent out his word and healed them,
    **and delivered them from destruction.**

21Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
    **for his wonderful works to humankind.**

22And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
    **and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

**SECOND Ephesians 2:1-10 (NRSV)**

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5even when we were dead through 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 ages to come 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 the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

\***LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Jesus, Remember Me* **ELW #616**

\***GOSPEL John 3:14-21 C: Glory to you O Lord.**

14And 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.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON/NOISY SUNDAY**

SERMON

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY**  *There is a Balm in Gilead*  **ELW #614**

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED ELW p. 217**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** L: Lord in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERING HYMN** *Create in Me a Clean Heart***ELW# 188**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD** *(left-column)* **ELW p. 220**

**\*THE LORD’S PRAYER**  *Sung*

**SENDING**

**\* BLESSING C:**  *Omit the Amens until the final* *Three-Fold Amen.*  **ELW p. 221,** *sec 3*

**\*SENDING HYMN** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*  **ELW # 338**

**BELL**

**SENDING** L: We journey in peace, knowing that however hard life may bite, the cross of Jesus bits back harder. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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*Self-love forever creeps out, like a snake, to sting anything*

*which happens to stumble upon it. ~* **Lord Byron**

**Readings for next Sunday:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ps 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



*We remember in our prayers…all who face catastrophic illness, surgery, and bindings of all kinds as well as the homebound:* ***Bea Behrens, Vi Benoy, Agnes Carlson, Lisa******Carlson & family, Donna Fisk, Rhonda Bonk, Oakley Selnes, Danny Lang, Family of Steven Yocom-(Laurie Wille), Janice Buhmann.***

*Be present with your Spirit, Lord, and lead us to be your presence to all. Amen.*

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***If you wish to donate a plant(s) to Trinity for the Easter season, please fill out the pink form inserted in your bulletin. Make your check out to Trinity Lutheran.***

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17**-Vicar Kent @ Luther Seminary in A.M. for class.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**-5:00-6:15 pm Youth Lenten Supper-Lasagna dinner.

**6:30 pm Lenten Worship**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

 9 AM Worship

10 AM Sunday School

*Reader: Mike Taylor, Acolyte: Reese Goeringer*

*Ushers: \*Tom Kneeland, Tom Dodge, Dan Smith and Chad Hastad*

***6:30 PM WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES***

***LENTEN REFLECTIONS 2015--ENCOUNTERING JESUS ON THE CROSS ROAD***

*Lent 4: March 18th Mark* ***5:25-34***

***The Woman who touched Jesus encounters HEALING in Christ***

*Lent 5: March 25th* ***John 3:1-21***

***Nicodemus encounters REDEMPTION in Christ***

***PALM SUNDAY ~ March 29th *** *Passion Sunday*

***MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ April 2nd –****A**10 am Service w/Communion will be held in the fellowship hall with coffee and rolls afterwards. There will be a sign-up sheet coming soon.*

***GOOD FRIDAY ~ April 3rd*** *--A 7 pm Service with Communion will be held*

***EASTER SUNDAY ~ April 5th 9 AM Easter Worship with Communion***

 *YOUTH EASTER BREAKFAST to be held from 7:30-8:45 am Easter morning, serving various egg bakes, and cinnamon rolls. (free will offering)*

*(Lenten offering— ½ is going to Heaven’s Table Food Shelf and ½ is going to CREST of Martin County.*

***RECEIVE VOLUNTEER HELP FROM CREST****-It might be help with chores, having a neighbor take you to a doctor’s appointment or friendly visits. CREST a “Faith in Action” program is looking for care receivers like you. CREST volunteers help people who are elderly or who have disabilities and now we are offering our services in the community of Truman. We are a part of the National Faith in Action Network and are dedicated to fostering caring relationships.* ***We help to maintain your independence by arranging a volunteer form Truman******to help you****. For more information about the services offered by CREST call 507-235-3833.*

A Benefit for **Vern Reinke** will be held today from 4:00-6:30 pm at the Lake Crystal American Legion (600 S Cty. Rd 20). Funds will be used to help with medical costs. Donations can also be made at Community Bank, Vernon Center.