



**Worship Bulletin: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
March 13 (5:30 PM) and March 14 (8:45AM) 2021**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We gather in the name of our baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

P: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

P: Merciful God,

A: forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

We were silent when we should have said something.

We acted when we knew better.

We were still when we know we should have moved.

For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: People of God, look to the † Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life! **A: Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"There in God's Garden"



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

A: Amen.

FIRST READING: 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.

R: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

PSALMODY:

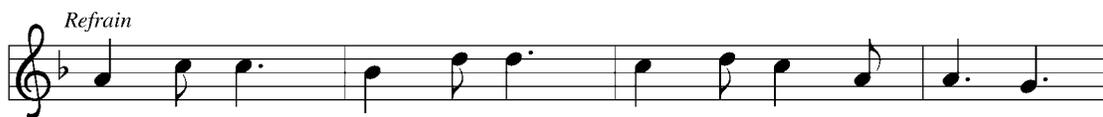
"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"
as interpreted by Dan Gresh



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You 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.

R: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Return to the Lord your God!

A: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

P: For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

P: The holy Gospel according to John,

A: 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord,

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Canvas and Clay"
by Pat Barrett

In my mother's womb
You formed me with Your hands
Known and loved by You
Before I took a breath
When I doubt it, Lord, remind me
I'm wonderfully made
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay

You make all things work together
For my future and for my good
You make all things work together
For Your glory and for Your name

There's a healing light
Just beyond the clouds
Though I've walked through fire
I see clearly now

I know nothing has been wasted
No failure or mistake
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay

You make all things work together
For my future and for my good
And you make all things work together
For Your glory and for Your name

And when I doubt it, Lord, remind me
I'm wonderfully made
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay

And I know nothing has been wasted
No failure or mistake
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay

You make all things work together
For my future and for my good
And you make all things work together
For Your glory and for Your name

You're not finished with me
You're not finished with me yet
You're not finished with me, no
You're not finished with me yet

And I know nothing has been wasted
No failure or mistake
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay
You're an artist and a potter
I'm the canvas and the clay

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

P: 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 (specific mission partners may be named), our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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 (especially). Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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 (especially). Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

A: you made everything, answering every need. Broken bread and poured wine come from you. Fill us now with your self-emptying love and join us to the saints before us in boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

A: Amen.

P: Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

A: Amen.

P: Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

A: Amen.

P: O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope. O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the

Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord Jesus,

A: in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

"Ooh Child"
by The Five Stairsteps

Ooh child
Things are gonna get easier
Ooh child
Things will get brighter
Ooh child
Things are gonna get easier
Ooh child
Things will get brighter

Someday, yeah
Put it together and we'll get it all done
Someday
When your head is much lighter
Someday, yeah

We'll walk in the rays of a beautiful sun
Someday
When the world is much brighter
Ooh child
Things are gonna be easier
Ooh child
Things'll be brighter
Ooh child
Things are gonna be easier
Ooh child
Things'll be brighter
Someday, yeah
Put it together and we'll get it all done
Someday
When your head gets lighter
Someday, yeah
We'll walk in the rays of a beautiful sun
Someday
When the world is much brighter
Someday (someday, someday)
Put it together and we'll get it all done
Someday
When your head is much lighter
Someday (someday, someday)
We'll walk in the rays of a beautiful sun
Someday
Much brighter
Ooh child
Things are gonna get easier
Ooh child
Things will get brighter
Ooh child
Things are gonna get easier
Ooh child
Things will get brighter
Right now
Right now
Right now (and you just wait and see)
(How things are gonna be) right now
(And you just wait and see)

(How things are gonna be) right now
(You just wait and see)
Right now

BLESSING

P: Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✝ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **A: Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P: With faith renewed, hope restored, and loved revived, we go,
A: to invite every generation on a shared journey to Christian growth.