

THE CROSS



March 14, 2021
9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1800 W. Maple
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

ORDER OF WORSHIP
March 14, 2021 – 9:00a.m./10:30a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Theme: The Cross

As We Gather

The cross of Christ is central to the Christian faith. Without the cross we do not have salvation. The Cross is the character of God: His love for sinners and His perfect justice meets at the cross. To understand the cross is to understand God and His love for us. When we understand the significance of the cross, we grow in godliness. The cross confronts the most prevalent of all sins, yes you know, pride.

Lenten Observance

As part of our Lenten observance, we follow the old church custom of omitting the “Alleluias” from our worship, symbolizing our voluntary restraint of praise during the penitential season of Lent.

Prayer Before Worship

O Lord Jesus, you were scourged and humiliated and degraded for me that I might be lifted up, adopted as a child of God, and share in Your inheritance. All glory, honor and praise to You. Amen.

Prelude

Rick Helderop

Opening Hymn 145 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1. Jesus, Refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above,
Oh, how oft Thine eyes, offended, gaze upon the sinner's fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended, Thou didst bear the pain of all.

2. Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
Tho' we see Thee wounded, bleeding, see Thy thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Thy sinless death hath bro't us life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Thy grace hath taught us calms the sinner's stormy breast.
3. Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for Thee!
May our eyes be ever turning to Thy cross of agony
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified!

**For the safety of your brothers and sisters in Christ,
please wear your mask for the entire service. Thank you!**

Order of Service

P: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

C: A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Glory be to the Father and to the +Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

(The Bronze Snake)

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and

said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

(Made alive in Christ)

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

Verse

P: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

C: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

(John 10:10)

Anthem Jesus Christ the Apple Tree - arr. Helvey

Chancel Choir Quartet:

Michele Fredericks, Alison Ristovski, Max Trombley, and Steve SeGraves

Gospel Announcement

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

(Jesus talks to Nicodemus)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

The 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown

1. My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
2. He came from His blest throne, salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend:
3. Sometimes they strew His way and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.

Sermon

Text: Numbers 21:4-9

"The Foreshadowing of the Cross in the Old Testament"

Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction and Response: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn

Lift High the Cross

(favorite hymn of Alexandra Stephens, Katie Stephens, Mallory Glazier, Sara Pridmore, Sean McCauley, Nancy Kabacinski, Pat Raezler, Kris Held, Stephanie Dettlinger, Jeanne Bolcer, Jeanie Buechner, Robert Anderson, Denise McNaughton, Cindy Grove, Erin Speller, Leslie Whitfield, Shirley Pariseau, Gary Priskorn, Ellen Baker, Angela Mammel, Kristen Rolf, Kitty Sweitzer, Donna Hollis, Robin Swift, Brigitta Burgess, Jimmy Greenwalt, Rosemary Ging)

Refrain:

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

Silent Prayer

Postlude

Rick Helderop



Sanctuary altar flowers were placed by Judy Mammel in loving memory of her husband Bernie. March 19th would have been his 90th birthday. Sanctuary lectern flowers were placed by David and Beth Hamada in honor of Joe Hamada's birthday. Chapel altar flowers were placed by the Burstein family.

Family of God Soup Kitchen sponsors for this month are: Lynn & Tim Duerr; the Rose family in celebration of Dan's birthday and thankfulness for our many blessings; Nancy Lesinski in gratefulness for health and family; the Raezler family; and three anonymous donations.

Acolytes

9:00 - Anna and Molly Rubel
10:30 - Arden and Canaan Baker

Ushers

9:00 - Keith Lewis, captain; Dave Peterson, Peter Hawkins, Rick Russ,
Mike Bacon, John Wagnitz, Arnie Glesmann, Andrew Farah
10:30 - Family Ushering

Audio and Video Operators

9:00 - Jim Endress and David Hardoin

Thank you to our altar guild team members, usher team members, AV team members, acolytes, musicians, and all those who work so hard behind the scenes each week to make our services happen.