



#### Mid-week Lenten Gatherings

5:00 to 6:00 pm- Light supper

5:30 to 6:15 pm- Wednesday Church School

**6:15 pm-** Guided conversation and worship around the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

#### Calendar and focus for the mid-week Lenten services:

- March 13 Unbinding and Letting Go (John 11:17-44)
- March 20 The Anointing (John 12:1-19)

The supper on March 13 will be served served by the Community Concerns Committee. On the menu will be soups, breads, and cookies/bars. Freewill donation.



# Graduating Senior Blanket Assembly Day

# Sunday, March 17 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

You are encouraged to come and help trim, cut, and tie our fleece blankets. We will order in pizza and pick up some pop to have for lunch. You are welcome to bring any snacks to share.



# Lift High the Cross

ELW #660 vv.1-4

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956.

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947. Text and Music: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

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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.

2. All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory!

# Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

L: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holly God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

L: Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through
H Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

# Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word: it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

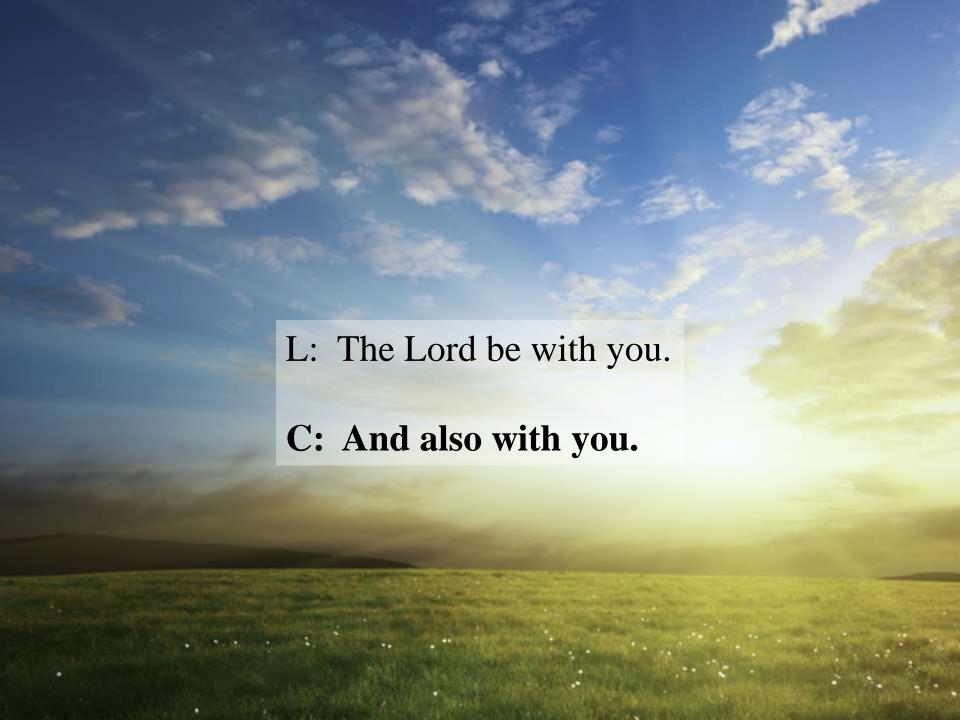
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

# Hymn of Praise

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth; we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever,
Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call. Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!



# Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

C: 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.

<sup>4</sup>From 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. <sup>5</sup>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 detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

<sup>7</sup>The 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm: 107:1-3, 17-22

- L: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.
- C: <sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
- L: <sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- C: <sup>17</sup>Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

- L: <sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.
- C: <sup>19</sup>Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.
- L: <sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.
- C: 21Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.
- L: <sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

# 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.

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in 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. <sup>3</sup>All 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. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us

<sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so 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. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

# Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the
good news that you bring.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

# **Gospel: John 3:14-21**

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: <sup>14</sup>"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"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.

<sup>17</sup>"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.

<sup>18</sup>Those 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. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But 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."

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

# Message

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## **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

ELW #779 vv. 1-3

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5. Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt. Public Domain.

- 1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

## Apostles' Creed

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.



#### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#184

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Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

# Offering Prayer

L: For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just these offerings but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us.

C: Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

Response after each petition:

L: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

## 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. 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.

## Blessing

L: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and 中 give you peace.

C: Amen.

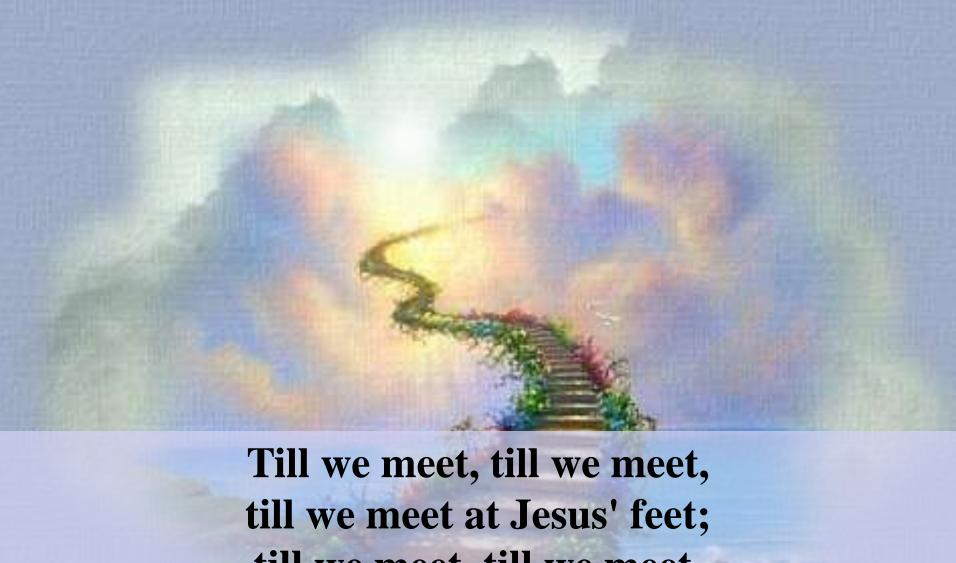
## God Be with You Till We Meet Again

ELW #536 vv. 1-3

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904. Music: William G. Tomer, 1833-1896. Public Domain.



1. God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.



2. God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

#### Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

