

Fourth Sunday in Lent
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, March 14, 2021



All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA

722 Rockbridge Road SW

Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor

John Womack, Director of Music and Organist

www.allsaintsilburn.org

Introduction to the day

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

---GATHERING---

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ZOOM NARTHEX TIME

9:50-10:05 am

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisette Branscomb
Congregational President

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.

Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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

GREETING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

---WORD---

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

Mary Yale

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.

A reading from Numbers.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

John Womack

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,

³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death’s door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress. R

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy. R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

Mary Yale

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.

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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.

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

God Loved the World

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 and suf - fered death; that all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer; Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adap.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Mary Yale

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

A brief silence.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Holy God, we pray especially for:

- John Jones; Al Kates; JoAnn; Scott Beal; Barbara Aiken.
- Sharla Hanson; Manuel Ibarra; Jack Bergeson; Leisa Wiggley; Maddy Faass.
- Jeff Miller; Margaret Shortreed; Pastor Ruth Hamilton; Jeff Smith.
- Jackie Szalkowski; Charlene Adams; Officer Max Brewer; Julie Boyer.
- The family of Genet (Gun-net) Johnson; Buster Lanham.
- Robert and Betty; Sister Roberta; Sandy Staven; Cherie Mason.
- June Hix; Trudy Hanson; Patti Austin; Charlie Kuni.
- Steve Robinson; Rick Robinson.
- All healthcare workers.
- The underemployed and unemployed.
- All family members and friends who have COVID.
- Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- All Saints' Call Committee.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 our Food Drives for the Lilburn Co-op and the SE Gwinnett Co-op, and our Sandwich Ministry. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ, especially the grandfather of Maddy Faass. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

---MEAL---

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/AllSaintsLutheranChurch1/general>

OFFERING of Bread and Wine

Preparing your bread and wine

All

OFFERING PRAYER

Mary Yale

Let us pray.

Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

+DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

John Womack



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.
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.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

+LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal and be fed.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond: **Amen**

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)

John Womack

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mary Yale

Let us pray.

God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

---SENDING---

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 593

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE

DISMISSAL

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Drawn to the Light

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the

light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a

sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
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---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ John Jones, for healing and recovery from cellulitis.
- ❖ Al Kates, for healing and recovery from recent knee replacement surgery.
- ❖ JoAnn (Martha Wooden's sister-in-law), for healing and recovery from pneumonia and COVID. JoAnn also has Parkinson's Disease. Now in rehab, COVID is not contagious and pneumonia is not affecting her breathing.
- ❖ Scott Beal (brother of a co-worker of Kevin Swanson), for healing from a broken back sustained in a serious auto accident. Thanksgiving that he was stabilized and taken off life support oxygen so surgery could take place and that he moved his legs for the first time. He is still in ICU but his wife is now allowed to visit. There are many hurdles ahead but it appears he may pull through which the family takes as a result of the many prayers and positive thoughts sent their way.
- ❖ Barbara Aiken (87 year old friend of Rica Kelly), for healing and relief from pain while recovering from a broken femur as a result of a fall. She has now returned home. Prayers for her family as Barbara is very confused as to what has happened.
- ❖ Sharla Hanson (sister of Sheila Wagner), for healing and recovery at home from recent surgery for internal bleeding.
- ❖ Manuel Ibarra (Casa de Dios para la Naciones Church), for recovery from COVID and pneumonia.
- ❖ Jack Bergeson (brother-in-law of Sue Martinson), thanksgiving for successful heart valve replacement this week after a recent heart attack, prayers for healing and recovery.
- ❖ Leisa Wigglely, (sewing friend of many at ASLC) for strength and courage in her ongoing battle with pancreatic cancer.
- ❖ Maddy Faass, who has a wonderful internship opportunity which is exactly what she has been looking for. Prayers for a good outcome as the opportunity is very competitive.
- ❖ Jeff Miller (nephew-in-law of Sue Martinson), thanksgiving for successful surgery for recurrence of bladder cancer, prayers for healing and recovery.
- ❖ Margaret Shortreed (friend of Laura Trittin), that a living kidney donor be found as she has stage four kidney disease.
- ❖ Pastor Ruth Hamilton, thanksgiving for progress and healing in her recovery from knee replacement surgery.
- ❖ Jeff Smith (cousin of Joann Rosselle), strength and courage in dealing with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.
- ❖ Jackie Szalkowski, for healing and recovery after breast cancer surgery. Thanksgiving for good progress and positive post-op report; no chemo needed.
- ❖ Charlene Adams, patience in waiting for knee replacement surgery to be scheduled and dealing with loneliness.
- ❖ Officer Max Brewer, thanksgiving for healing of his left leg; for patience and resolve in dealing with further surgery on his right leg - earlier surgeries were not successful.
- ❖ Julie Boyer, prayers for healing and recovery from breast cancer surgery.
- ❖ Protection for the family of Genet (Gun-net) Johnson (Blandon's wife), who have been caught up in violence in Ethiopia. Her parents and siblings are still not out of the woods, but have necessary medications now. Prayers for peace and comfort for the family of Genet's cousin, a government worker who was shot and killed in front of his wife and children.
- ❖ Buster Lanham (brother-in-law of Angela Kates), strength and patience while undergoing additional chemo for inoperable Stage 2 pharyngeal cancer; his condition has worsened.

- ❖ Robert (nephew of Betty Bradford), recovery after surgery and other major health concerns, including the need for a kidney transplant; also for his 85 year-old mother Betty (sister-in-law of Betty Bradford), who is his caregiver.
- ❖ Sister Roberta, for renewed strength, energy, and patience in daily activities.
- ❖ Sandy Staven, thanksgiving for her progress after hip replacement surgery January 12.
- ❖ Cherie Mason, thanksgiving for feeling well after final chemo treatment; for calm and reassurance while waiting for results of a PET scan this past week; thanksgiving for teaching college courses again; discernment in decisions about teaching in the future.
- ❖ June Hix, for healing from recent burns sustained while working on a broken hot water heater; for help with knee pain which causes difficulty in walking; for strength in caring for her brother Carl, who needs open-heart surgery when bleeding ulcers are healed.
- ❖ Trudy Hanson, thanksgiving that she has completed chemo treatments for breast cancer; for progress in healing so radiation treatment can begin.
- ❖ Patti Austin, for comfort and peace as she grieves the passing of Hilton.
- ❖ Charlie Kuni, for patience in waiting to see his heart doctor on 3/15 to determine treatment; thanksgiving for receiving both doses of the COVID vaccine.
- ❖ Steve Robinson (brother of Rick Robinson) in a new rehab facility for treatment of diabetes.
- ❖ Rick Robinson (Sandra Robinson's husband), for healing and recovery from recent shoulder surgery which was related to an auto accident last year; thanksgiving that surgery was less extensive than expected and that he will be in a sling three weeks rather than six.
- ❖ Prayers for children, parents, teachers, and school administrators, for guidance, wisdom, and cooperation in making wise decisions for all.
- ❖ Prayers for All Saints' Call Committee, as they move ahead to the "matching" category of the Call Process.
- ❖ Prayers of comfort and peace for Maddy Faass as she mourns the recent passing of her grandfather.