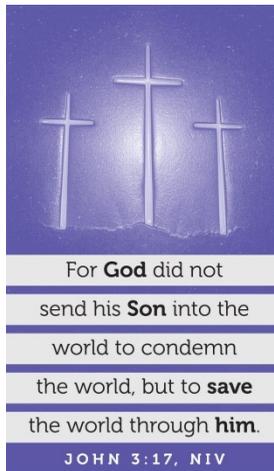


March 14, 2021  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Ministry of the Word**



## 2

### The Gathering of the Community

#### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn #486 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Text by Charles Wesley

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

#### Greeting

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

#### Collect for Purity

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*People* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

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*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*People* **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

First Reading:

Numbers 21:4–9

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Numbers.

<sup>4</sup>From 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. <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. <sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>So 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 107:1–3,17-22**

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,<br/>and his mercy endures for ever.</p> <p>2 Let all those whom the Lord has<br/>redeemed proclaim<br/>that he redeemed them from the hand<br/>of the foe.</p> <p>3 He gathered them out of the lands;<br/>from the east and from the west,<br/>from the north and from the south.</p> <p>17 Some were fools and took to rebellious<br/>ways;<br/>they were afflicted because of their<br/>sins.</p> | <p>18 They abhorred all manner of food<br/>and drew near to death's door.</p> <p>19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,<br/>and he delivered them from their distress.</p> <p>20 He sent forth his word and healed them<br/>and saved them from the grave.</p> <p>21 Let them give thanks the Lord for his mercy<br/>and the wonders he does for this children.</p> <p>22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving<br/>and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.</p> |
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**O God, the divine seeker, you are light to the lost, bread to the hungry, deliverance to the captive, healing to the sick, eternal vision to the dying, and harbour to every soul in peril. Gather the wanderers from every corner of the world into the community of your mercy and grace, that we may eternally praise you for our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 2:1–10

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

<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 towards us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you

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have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant* Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life.

*People* **Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life.**

*Celebrant* God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*People* **Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life.**

Holy Gospel:

John 3:14–21

*Subdeacon* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Subdeacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>14</sup> [Jesus said,] “And 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 judgement, 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.”

*Subdeacon* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

*A time for silent reflection is kept.*

Solo Be Still, My Soul

**The Apostles' Creed**

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*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

**The Prayers of the People***Leader* We pray to you, Lord.*People* **Lord, have mercy.****The Lord's Prayer***Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

*People* **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Peace**

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*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.*People* **And also with you.****The Prayer over the Gifts***Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**Doxology***Celebrant* Glory to God,

*People* **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Blessing****Announcements****Dismissal**

*Subdeacon* Go in peace as we walk our Lenten journey; reflect; pray; continue to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn #401 "My Life Flows On in Endless Song"**

Text by Robert Lowry; adaptation with additional text by Doris Plenn

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|---|--|
| <p>1 My life flows on in endless song<br/>above earth's lamentation.<br/>I hear the real though far-off hymn<br/>that hails a new creation.</p> | <p>3 What though the tempest 'round me roar,<br/>I hear the truth it liveth.<br/>What though the darkness 'round me<br/>close,<br/>songs in the night it giveth.</p> |
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**Refrain:**

No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing;  
it sounds and echoes in my soul;  
how can I keep from singing?

**Refrain****Refrain**

- 5 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing.  
All things are mine since I am his;  
how can I keep from singing?

**Refrain****Postlude**

**We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .**

**Congregation Cycle**

Juliet Adib  
 Stephanie Aguiar  
 William Amanyire  
 Cawder Ravijumar Andrews  
 Etoann Arsbo

On Thursday, we marked the first anniversary of the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic by the World Health Organization.

"Over the past year, many have suffered pain and loss, and all of us have faced hardship or disruption. Yet, we also have experienced God's presence in new and meaningful ways, witnessing the resiliency of God's people when we trust in this presence."

The Most Reverend Anne Germond Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. March 2, 2021

**Today's Scripture Readings**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9  
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
 Ephesians 2:1-10  
 Luke 18:9-14

**Next Sunday's Scripture Readings**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Hebrews 5:5-10  
 Psalm 51:1-13  
 John 12:20-33

Celebrant

The Rev. Leonard Leader

Preacher

The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD

Subdeacon

Margie Lyttle

Reader

Craig Robertson

Organist

Michael Leach

Soloist

Rachel Fuller

Intercessor

Laura Pummell

Videographer

Egan Done