

The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ March 14, 2021

Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God,
our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,
by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas,
wells and springs,
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.

For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert,
calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness,
and walking with us into newness of life.

For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,
that strengthened by your Word,
we may care for others and for the world you made,
and work for justice and peace for all.
For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,
Holy God, now and forever.

Amen.

Greeting

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.

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson *Numbers 21:4-9*

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.

Psalm 107:1-4, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures 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.
⁴You led them on a straight path
to go to a city where they might dwell.
¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.
¹⁸They loathed all manner 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.
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.

Second Reading *Ephesians 2:1-10*

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.

Gospel *John 3:14-21*

[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."

Sermon



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.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

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.

Dismissal

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't Be Late for Church Next Week. As the longer days remind us, it is time to set our clocks ahead one hour next Saturday, March 13, at bedtime.

Devotions with Holy Communion Continue on March 25. Pastor Duane will be on vacation this coming week, but will resume devotions the following week. Call the church office at 382-6509 to reserve a slot or use the new Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA8AC2EA20-weekly>

In-Person Sunday School Off for Spring Break on March 14. Sunday School resumes next Sunday, March 21, at 10:00 am in fellowship hall.

NLC Virtual Hymn Festival Today: Hope Lives!

Join the National Lutheran Choir and guest artists, the Keith Hampton Singers, for a FREE virtual program blending spoken reflections, songs and familiar hymns of joy and hope with new music that speaks to our present time, inviting all people of faith to sing in joy *together!* **Sunday, March 14 @ 4pm (Central Daylight Time) @ NLCA.com**

Add or Update Your Directory Picture. Dan Stieler sent an email inviting you to add a picture to the online church directory if you have not done so or update your picture if you have. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

Memorial Seeks Bids for Lawn Care Services. If you, or someone you know, would like to prepare a proposal to provide lawn mowing and trimming service for the 2021 growing season, you can pick up a proposal form from the guest table in the narthex. All proposals are due by noon on Friday, April 9.

Fellowship and Adult Study Continues on Sundays. We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

Prayers for Healing

Fred Samuelson, Gary Kluever, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen

For Those Who Mourn

+Rod Dirth died Monday, March 8, in Florida. A service will be held at a later date. We extend Christian sympathy to his sister and brother-in-law, Ron and Gloria Jacobson, and all the family.