

So must  
the Son of Man  
be lifted up

JOHN 3:14

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at*

*[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Norma Shue, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**Sunday, March 14, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**

**PRELUDE**

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*  
Leah McComas, Flute

Anne Krentz Ortan

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

**LITANY FOR LENT**

*Sung by the cantor*

Leader:

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

You are our eternal hope;

you are patient and full of mercy;

you are generous to all who call upon you.

Assembly

Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness,  
 you have taken away our sins.  
 On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions  
 and were bruised for our iniquities.  
**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, obedient unto death,  
 source of all comfort, our life and resurrection,  
 our peace and reconciliation:  
**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,  
 hope of all who die in you, and joy of all the saints:  
**Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.**

Leader Assembly Leader

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus,

Assembly

bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Leader

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,

Assembly

grant us peace, grant us peace.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

### READING

**Ephesians 2:1-10 (back page)**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### VERSE

*Sung by the cantor*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -  
ful, slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

Text: Joel 2:13

Music: Anne Krentz Organ

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## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 3:14-21 (back page)**

The Holy Gospel according to .... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

*Stand*

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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 into hell.\***

**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.**

*Continued on next page...*

**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**

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 Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, Mpuguso Lutheran Church Konde Diocese, 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. 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. 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. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. 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.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Merciful Father,**  
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

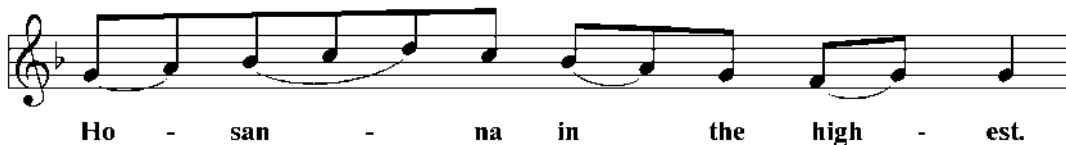
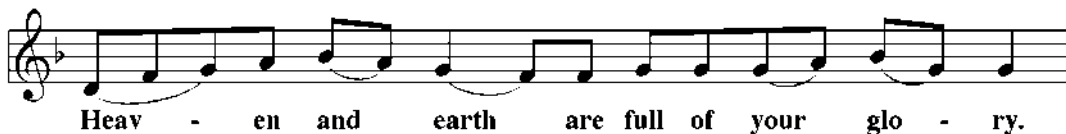
## DIALOGUE

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS *Sung by the cantor. Congregation joins at* C



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

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

## **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.**

**FRACTION RITE** *A brief silence is kept.*




## AGNUS DEI *Sung by cantor, women, all*

*Cantor:*



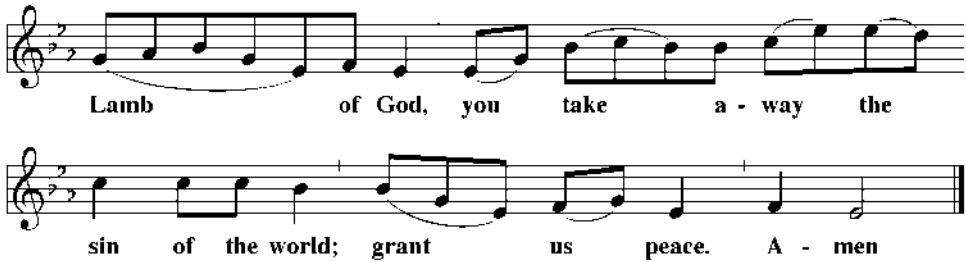
Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

*Women:*



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

*All:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men

*Sit* The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

### COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

**Stand**

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (LBW 482) stanza 1 & 4*

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a  
prince of glo - ry too died, my rich - est gain I  
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,  
count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Lord, You I Love with All My Heart*

*Paul Manz*

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.  
 Feel free to gather outside for conversation.  
 Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

STAFF

Pastor  
 Youth Director  
 Organist, Choir Director  
 Bookkeeper  
 Secretary  
 Sexton  
 Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep [preep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:preep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Kelly Moore-Spencer [kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Victor Fields [vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Dale Zeiger [dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Patee Pizzurro [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Ted Weikert [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Deb Becker [director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com](mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

*In our prayers we remember...*

*Sandy Dickensheets, Teresa Rohrbaugh, Isaiah King, Delores Sergent, Sandra Farcht, Wayne Wagner, Jannette Guetersloh, Oonagh Newman, Jenny Zimmerman, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey*

**New Members Class** meets during the month of March at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in uniting with our faith community please notify the church office. Masks and physical distancing will be practiced during the four sessions.

**Bible Study In-person** Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. We will spend most of our time during the Lenten Season on the epistle reading for the up-coming Sunday. Wednesday, March 17 we will study Hebrews 5:5-10.

**Food Pantry—March**

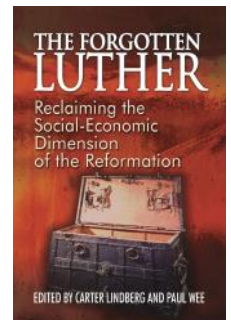
**Items needed:** Canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles. [Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore.](#) Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.



**Easter Flower order forms are available at all doors and are due March 15th. Flowers are \$12.00 Please make check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and leave form and payment for the church secretary or in the offering plate.**

**Lenten Wednesday Evenings led by Pastor William Snyder  
The Forgotten Luther, edited by Carter Lindberg and Paul Wee  
March 17, 24 7:00-8:00 PM**

We often forget how frequently Luther called for reform in the social and economic dimensions of life, which he saw as a natural outgrowth of theology and love of neighbor. The book, *The Forgotten Luther*, will be the jumping off point for our discussion. Reading the book is optional. We will consider such topics as: the common chest; the danger of greed; subversion when called forth; creating new vision in the world. We will take the opportunity to examine together many social issues that challenge us in these times. Contact the office email [st.paulsnyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsnyork@comcast.net) to register and receive the Zoom link.



**CREATE—CREATE** will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Ages 2 through grade 1 will be held 6:00pm till 6:30pm. Grades 2 through Grade 6 will be 6:45pm through 7:15pm. Each participant will receive a group of packets, each containing all the supplies that are needed for the designated weekly lesson. The Zoom sessions will include Bible Stories, Church Seasons, Holidays, Crafts and Art Projects.



You can also do these sessions on your own with your children. . Please let me know if you are interested in being part of CREATE Zoom. Miss Kelly

This week the news cycle was dominated by President Biden's rescue plan for the American people. The rescue plan made its way from House to Senate and back to the House before heading across Pennsylvania Avenue to the presidential desk for signature. But the rescue plan that was spoken of during what seems like ages ago on the 2020 campaign trail, and the one that was speedily sent from House to Senate seeking support and needing support, created discussions about the scale of what was and is needed to rescue the American people, the economy, and to provide for a sustainable future. This week the news cycle was in sync with the very topic that dominates the readings for this Fourth Sunday in Lent, God's rescue plan for humankind.

The Old Testament reading captures the impatient nature of humanity. We pick up the story as the Israelites make their way from bondage, captivity, oppression under the dominance of foreign rule on their way toward a new future. The impatience is born out in their grumbling and murmuring, their lack of appreciation for the provisions provided for the journey, and their frustration with God and with their appointed leader Moses. This is the point in the story where God sends poisonous serpents among the people, and the serpents bit the people so that many Israelites died. Now that things had gone from bad to worse they needed to be rescued not only from their former way of life as slaves to the Pharaoh in Egypt, but from the serpents that were bringing death. And the Lord God provides what I would like to think of as a rescue package when the Lord has Moses fashion a serpent out of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and be rescued, they would live. This rescue package didn't keep the snakes from biting, but it provided healing so that the story didn't end in the death of the Israelite people. God's plan rescued them from death and provided for a future.

The Gospel reading captures the darkness of the world, the evil that works its way into every nook and cranny. The irony is that the darkness is so pervasive that folks don't even know that they need to be rescued from it. The stumbling around, the lack of clarity, the familiarity of eyes whose rods and cones have adjusted to such darkness can't imagine the sure footing, clarity, shape and color that are possible when they are brought into the light through God's rescue event in Christ Jesus. God gives Jesus as light for the world! *"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."* People, John says, love darkness better than light, because they don't want their evil deeds, thoughts, words, actions, ulterior motives to be scrutinized. They fear such pain. They would rather keep on stumbling than to be rescued for fear of how things might look. God of course already knows how bad things are; that is why God prepares a rescue plan made know through his only Son, Christ Jesus. That rescue plan is the one we give particular attention to during our Holy Week observance. We are rescued through the suffering death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

The New Testament reading from the letter to the Ephesians addresses a wide range of things that need attention, chief among them, humanity's rescue from sin and death. The letter to the Ephesians states clearly the need to be rescued from the power of the air, the

spirit at work among the disobedient. This is the writer's code language for the devil. The writer identifies how humanity is seemingly more content following the desires of the flesh than the ways of God. The writer is sure of one thing, that we can't set ourselves free, or rescue ourselves from such desires and from such wrath. We need God's rescue package. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved."* This rescue is a gift to us made possible through a loving and gracious God. And now that we have been rescued through the work of Christ Jesus; his immeasurable riches, his grace and kindness, we are restored, put right, brought back to how God made us. Now that I have rescued you, God says, you are to be about the business for which you were created, for good works; that is to be your way of life.

You may be one of those people who doesn't think or believe that you need to be rescued. Or you may have forgotten your rescue when you were adopted, made an heir, washed in baptismal water, and marked with Christ's cross. You may even be one who doesn't think that you are so far gone, so deep in sin, so distant from God that you need to be rescued, especially through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus dying on a cross. But Ephesians reminds us that is precisely the work of the Beloved, Jesus, God's only Son. This is God's rescue package for humankind.

God's rescue package came as the infant child of Bethlehem wrapped up in bands of cloth and placed in an animal trough.

God's rescue package came among as an itinerant preacher calling ordinary people to leave behind their old ways of life and to follow him into a new future.

God's rescue package came bringing healing to those cast aside by society and welcome to those who seemingly didn't fit in.

God's rescue package came to an upper room and shared supper that provides the food necessary for the journey from captivity and death to freedom and eternal life.

God's rescue package was so despised by civic and religious leaders that they tried their best to kill him, to put him to death, so that their own ways could live on. But God's rescue package could not be held in a tomb.

God's rescue package sings forth a new song on Easter morning as God raises Christ Jesus from death to life and pours out his Spirit upon those gathered behind closed doors.

God's breath was breathed into you and poured out upon you when you were rescued through your adoption through Baptism.

Human rescue packages, like those provided by government, they help for a time, but they are not eternal. Would that the government only had to provide a rescue package once for all; a situation like that may even garner full bipartisan support, but that is not the way of our humanness. The way of God, rescuing us from sin and death through Christ Jesus is indeed once for all. That is why the writer of Ephesians calls upon us to lead a life worthy of our calling. That is why the writer advocates putting away anger and living in love. By so doing who knows who else might be rescued through extending such grace. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

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. <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.

**Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22****SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

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. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you 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.

**GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

[Jesus said:] "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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
ELCA-R