

Lent 4 – From death to life

Grace Lutheran Church

March 14, 2021

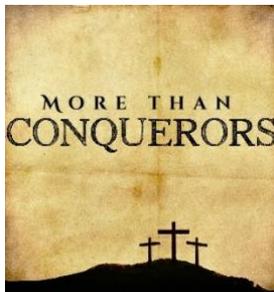
# Fourth Sunday in Lent



The Sundays in Lent are not “of” Lent, but “in” Lent, for they are little islands unto themselves (Ash Wednesday to Good Friday marks the 40 days of Lent, but the Sundays aren’t counted). They are “little Easters” that point us ahead to the victory that is ours and that we know is coming. So while during the week we focus on the Passion of our Savior, it is on these Sundays where we remember that we...

## More Than Conquerors in Lent

- Feb. 21 – Through Christ
- Feb. 28 - Through Struggle
- March 7 - Through Foolishness of the Cross
- TODAY – Through Grace**
- March 21 – Through Salvation
- March 28 – Through Humbleness



*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace*

6550 Fairmont Blvd / Yorba Linda, CA 92886  
714-779-2384 / [gracelutheran.church](http://gracelutheran.church)

Pastor Phillip Sievert –  
720-364-1002

[pdsievert@aol.com](mailto:pdsievert@aol.com) or [pastor@gracelutheran.church](http://pastor@gracelutheran.church)



March 14,  
2021

## REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

Psalm 130

L: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

*This alternate  
beginning to  
worship reminds us  
that conquering in  
the Christian life  
comes by simply  
remembering  
Christ's love for us.*

L: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

## INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**

L: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

L: 1. Lord Jesus, you call us to faith, **C: Lord, have mercy.**  
2. Christ Jesus, lifted up for our salvation, **C: Christ, have mercy.**  
3. Lord Jesus, you were raised to life for us, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**All: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.  
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, but we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Just as Moses lifted  
up the snake in the  
desert...*



## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup>they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.  
(John 3:16)

*...the Son of Man  
must be lifted up,  
that whoever  
believes in him will  
be saved.*

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

FOR  
God  
so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that  
whosoever  
believeth in  
Him should  
not perish,  
but have  
everlasting  
life.  
JOHN 3:16

## HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace I'm Saved (CW #384)

*Grace – God's  
undeserved love is  
His gift to us and  
our confidence!*

- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why waver at this word of promise?  
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
So then this word must true remain:  
By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**
- 2 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,  
Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone,  
That brought him from his heav'nly throne.**
- 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice.  
For though I know my heart's condition,  
I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad; all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.**

Text: Christian L.  
Scheidt, 1709–61,  
abr.; tr. composite.

## More than Conquerors...

Through Grace

## SERMON LESSON

*based on* Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of  
sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and 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.**

## **BLESSING**

**M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.**

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## What Grace Is This? (#715)

*This hymn helps us recognize the nature of divine grace, which is entirely independent of anything we are or can offer to God. God's grace willingly acts on behalf of rebellious sinners, as especially displayed in the suffering and death of our Savior.*

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 © 2005 Laurie F. Gauger. All rights reserved.  
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- 1 What grace is this! My Lord and King  
Has set his face to suffering.  
My God eternal dies to bring  
Eternal life to me.**
- 2 What grace is this—That very God  
Would stoop to lift a cross of wood  
And walk a road of rock and blood,  
A sinner's road, for me.**
- 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,  
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law | With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.  
And lets the Roman hammers draw | The sinless Son bears each misdeed.  
A rush of blood for me. He pays for all, for me.**
- 4 What grace is this! Rude agonies!  
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law | With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.  
And lets the Roman hammers draw | The sinless Son bears each misdeed.  
A rush of blood for me. He pays for all, for me.**
- 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths  
And gently laid in manger-trough,  
He's taken, dead, from wretched cross  
And wrapped again for me.**
- 6 What grace is this? How can it be  
He wears this raw humility  
To lift me to eternity.  
Such grace—sweet grace—for me.**

## CALENDAR



**Wednesday – Online midweek Lent: Broken Vessels**

**Thursday – Zoom Bible Study at 10 AM or 7 PM**

**SUNDAY – Worship – online or 9:30 AM in person  
Confirmation class**

**Easter – April 4<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 AM or 9:30 AM / or Online**

*Certain hope*  
**FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES**

## PRAYERS

- **Brad for healing and perseverance**
- **Bob & Cindy welcome new grand daughter and her family!**
- **Tanya– tests this week**