

# Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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**Fourth Sunday in Lent    †    March 14, 2021**

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the | Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

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

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near | to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord  
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your | word and healed them  
and rescued them | from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your | steadfast love  
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

<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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“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.”

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Amazing Grace"

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **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.

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**

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, 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.**

O Holy One, we look to you now because this day weighs heavy on our bodies and souls. Admittedly, we find this past year to be remembered by distinctive change and heartbreak in our lives. You have been sustaining our world since the seasons passed and life has moved on, sometimes without us knowing. We look toward you with thanksgiving for the supporting power and comforting touch of the past year in the middle of our grief. We now join in lifting up the difficult days we've weathered. We recognize your sacred strength that helped us to continue when we didn't think we could. Now we celebrate the surprising and heartwarming moments of laughter and sparks of happiness that help us to remember the nourishment of your joyful spirit. Help us to find by ourselves, Christ, in resurrection of change and new. We ask for you to continue to seek us, even, or especially, when you feel further than you are. No matter what, let us know that your presence is all around us. We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **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

### **BENEDICTION**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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**This week please hold in prayer:** Karl & Oneta Wiechers, Mary Lou Zwiebel, Rick Ford, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

### **Swiss Steak Drive Thru Dinner**

Ridgeville Legion is holding a drive thru Swiss Steak Dinner on today from 11am until sold out at the Legion Hall on County Road 19. Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Dinner Roll, Dessert. Cost \$10 per meal.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10, Gospel: John 12:20-33. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

**JOIN US** in reading the New Testament in chronological order in 2021! This week's readings are:

March 14: Ephesians 4  
March 15: Ephesians 5  
March 16: Ephesians 6  
March 17: Mark 1

March 18: Mark 2  
March 19: Mark 3  
March 20: Mark 4

### **Lenten Micro Practices**

- Speak Kindness - 3-15 - Day 23 - FAST

Refrain from gossip and other unkind words. **Only speak what is positive today.** Bonus: add a quarter to a giving jar if you say something negative.

- Say Thanks - 3-16 - Day 24 - GIVE

We receive help from others in big and small ways all the time. Who has helped you along the way? **Write a letter of thanks to someone who has made a difference in your life.**

- Memorize - 3-17 - Day 25 - MORE

**What scripture do you want to hold close to guide you today and in the future? Write it out and repeat it throughout the day.** You can even set a timer on your phone as a reminder.

- Difficult Prayers - 3-18 - Day 26 - PRAY

In Matthew 5:43, **Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.** A simple but transformative reminder for yourself is: God loves my enemies the same as God loves me.

- Traditional Fast - 3-19 - Day 27 - FAST

**Partake of only one full meal today.** Some food is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening—depending on when you choose to eat your full meal.

- Give Time - 3-20 - Day 28 - GIVE

**Schedule time for serving others during Lent.** It doesn't matter whether the project is big or small, it matters more that you share your time.

- Music Day - 3-21 - Sunday 5 - MORE

**Spend your day singing and listening to religious music.** After all, "when you sing you pray twice." (Quote attributed to Augustine.)

### **Tentative Holy Week 2021 Schedule**

- Palm Sunday- We will gather in the parking lot for a Palm Procession at 8:30am. You are welcome to walk around the building (distanced) or to stay in your cars and honk your horns! Worship will continue at 9am (online if red, inside if orange or yellow) with a potential parking lot worship option. Check back for details!

- Maundy Thursday- Dinner Church is one of my favorite things and I will be sharing it with you online! We will eat together, share stories about important meals in our lives, do a liturgy for remembrance of communion, and witness the stripping of the altar. You are invited to make spaghetti so that we are all eating the same thing and have bread/wine/juice for the remembrance of communion! Add whatever you want to make it your own. If you need spaghetti and sauce, reach out and we can provide it. For the best experience, gather on zoom (it will be shared to Facebook, but it won't be as fun there).

- Good Friday- A community worship service will be available on Facebook at noon. If we are orange, there will also be a service in person at 7pm.

- Easter Sunday- We will gather at Meyerholtz Park (1799 W Riverview) at 7am for Sunrise Easter Worship including Holy Communion. Bring a chair and dress for the weather.

- If we are red- Easter worship will be on Facebook and Zoom at 9am with drive thru communion from 10-11am. Bring your own elements if you would like!

- If we are orange or yellow- Easter Worship will be at 9am and 11am. Attendance is limited to 60 people per service and therefore RSVPs are necessary. Masks are required and we ask that you distance. Communion will be celebrated at the end of worship in the back of the sanctuary and from 10-10:45am in the elevator room.

\*Holy Week's determination will be based on the county color as of March 25th.

**EASTER LILIES:** Only Easter lilies are available this year to be purchased for Easter Sunday. The cost will be \$10.00. Any proceeds will benefit the Good Samaritan Fund. An order form is included in this Sunday's bulletin. The order (and check made out to Emanuel Lutheran) can be placed in the black drop box located on the back wall of the church building. Help decorate the altar for Easter Sunday! **The deadline for ordering is March 20.** Any questions, please call Denise Etzler at 814-389-2973.

Link to the order Easter Lilies <https://forms.gle/4XUYD3mveNoZzn3u6>

### **Offering**

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

### **Available now, Mobile and OnLine Donations**

#### **GivePlus Mobile App**

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by our zip code **43545** or by searching for the name of our church.

#### **GivePlus Online**

1. Visit our website at **EmanuelNapoleon.org**
2. Locate the link Give at the top of the page.

You can make a one-time contribution or a recurring gift. Any questions, please contact Julie Kohout.

EASTER PLANTS ORDER FORM

**\$10<sup>00</sup>**

Proceeds will benefit the  
Emanuel Lutheran Good Samaritan Fund

ORDER DEADLINE — March 20, 2021

*Please make Checks payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church.*

(How many) \_\_\_\_\_ Lily

*Total amount enclosed \$* \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

*(Optional)*

In loving memory of *(deceased)* \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of *(living)* \_\_\_\_\_