

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



*Jesus said to Nicodemus:
“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the
Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who
believes in him may have eternal life.” John 3:14-15.*

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**4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14, 2021**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)
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Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)
Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF THE WORD

(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 112 (pew bible, p.542)
- ◆ The Hymns: 912, 570, 571, 924
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:4-10
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 38

Sermon Text – John 3:14-21

BELIEVERS ARE A BREED APART

1. They look to God's uplifted Son.
2. They lean on God's unlimited love.
3. They live according to God's unveiled truth.

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (924)

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Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by
the tract rack or by request from an usher.

You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by
putting it in the collection plate located by the back pew.
There will be no offering collection during the service.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Numbers 21:4-9

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 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. 8 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.” 9 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, he lived.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 38

P O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger:
C For discipline me in your wrath.
P For your arrows have pierced me:
C And your hand has come down upon me.
P My guilt has overwhelmed me:
C Like a burden too heavy to bear.
P All my longings lie open before you, O LORD:
C My sighing is not hidden from you.
P I wait for you, O LORD:
C You will answer, O Lord my God.
P Come quickly to help me:
C O Lord my Savior.

Second Lesson – Ephesians 2:4-10

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

Sermon Text – John 3:14-21

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “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. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

A WARM WELCOME IN CHRIST TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS. We're glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus! Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He would be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler; Usher: Ed Chiappetti

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (3/14)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (The Trial of Jesus, NT 37)
	10:45 am	Bible Class
Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
Sun (3/21)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Jesus Before Pilate, NT 38)
	10:45 am	Bible Class

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. Lenten Services: March 17,24, 7:00 pm
 Palm Sunday Worship: March 28, 9:30 am
 Maundy Thursday Communion Service: April 1, 7:00 pm
 Good Friday Worship: April 2, 7:00 pm
 Easter Sunday Worship: April 4, 9:30 am

OUR FIFTH MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE will be held this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. The service will be conducted by Ed Chiappetti. This week's thought for meditation is: *"Jesus, our Heavenly King, Is Worthy of Our Worship"* (a truth proclaimed by the Roman Soldiers). Sermon text: Mark 15:16-19.



MARCH BIRTHDAY (ANNIVERSARY) BLESSINGS TO . . .

Velma Clark, Mar 16 Lance Clark, Mar 25
 Norman Ross, Mar 18 (David & Candy Wamboldt, Mar 12)

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: As announced last Sunday, we are looking for someone to fill the position of Sunday School Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year. Mike Sprengeler, who has served faithfully in this capacity for many years, is stepping down. If you are interested in serving the Lord in this way beginning next fall please inform the pastor or President Ed Chiappetti. If you would like more information please speak with Mike or the pastor. (Note: All adult members of St. Paul are eligible to serve as the Sunday School superintendent.)

CHOIR PRACTICES are planned for the next three Sundays (March 21, 28, and April 4) at 8:30 am. We will work on an anthem to present in our Easter Sunday worship service.

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
MARCH 15-20

Mon Numbers 21:4-9 The good LORD intended to detour His people around Edom and not trample over their cousins (descendants of Esau), but that didn't sit well with people who saw the detour as more tedious miles and further months of bland manna. So they needed and received another dose of God's tough love, bringing them to repent (4-7). Then God provided an anti-venom serum that was free, available, no standing in line or making an appointment for a dose of God's curative: just open your eyes and heart to God's cure for Satan's poison, as per Genesis 3:14-15.

Tues John 3:14-21 Nicodemus failed to make the connection, so Jesus made it for him (and for us) – that the brass serpent was an image of Jesus Himself, who would be lifted up in the wilderness of sin, who is God's antidote to Satan's poison, who can save souls from perishing in pain, and who is able to bestow eternal life. Let's trust God on this – Jesus saves!

Wed Ephesians 2:4-10 Who is responsible for saving lost souls? God. But why does God bother? Because He is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses. Really? Yes, God had compassion on corpses and resolved to make us alive together with Jesus and raise us up from the grave together with Jesus and make us sit together with Jesus in heaven. Together with Jesus all the way!!

Thurs Psalm 38 David lets us eavesdrop on this conversation with the LORD, and what he has to say about himself makes us cringe (1-8). We see that his soul is being tugged first one way—and then the other way (9-14), but we also see that he can't let himself be torn away from the LORD (15-20). “LORD God, I need Your help! Help me! HELP!”

Fri John 12:27-36 Jesus lets us eavesdrop on this prayer to His Father, and we hear that He felt depressed in heart and soul. He was pressured to the point of asking: “Is there an easier way out for Me, easier than horrific crucifixion?” But that would sabotage everything – so Jesus let it rest under the umbrella “Glorify Your name.” That is, “No matter how unbearable things get for ME, I want Your good name to be honored by what I do.” I thank You, dear Savior, for bearing the unbearable for me.

Sat Acts 22:17-21 God had rescued Saul/Paul from his death spiral, but he needed more stabilizing – so Jesus set him straight about putting his past behind him, avoiding confrontation with hostile Jews in Satan's backyard, but rather pack his duffel bag and go far afield into foreign lands to bring non-Jews into touch with God's redeeming love via Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for further developments.