

*"Make a snake and put  
it up on a pole; anyone  
who is bitten can  
look  
at it  
and  
live."*

NUMBERS 21:8, NIV



## The Order of Worship

### Pre-Service Music

**Opening Hymn**            “God Loved the World So that He Gave”  
   *Christian Worship 391*

### God Places His Name on Us

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you!**

### The Confession of Sins

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness, and by faith, receive the God’s gracious invitation: “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” *Isaiah 1:18*

**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.**

### God Forgives Us for Jesus’ Sake

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has sent his Son into the world to secure forgiveness and life for all people. Rejoice because God has revealed Jesus as that Savior and has shown us mercy: “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.”  
*Isaiah 42:1-4*

P: Rejoice that righteousness and peace have been established. Rejoice that through Jesus’ precious work and his authority, all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### **We Rejoice in Our Forgiveness**

**C: “I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. With joy I will draw water from the wells of salvation.”**  
*Isaiah 12:1-4*

### **Song of Praise**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



**C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are**



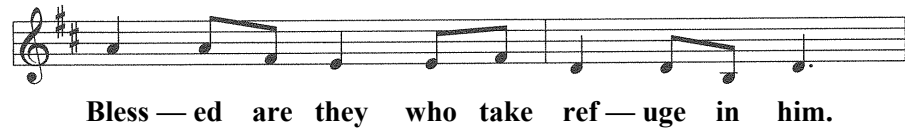
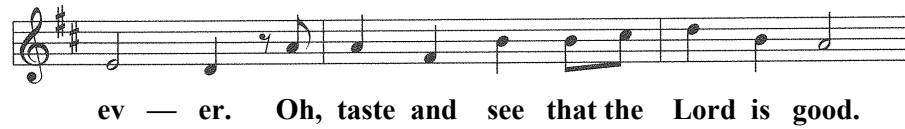
**they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e—**



**ter — nal; it stands firm in the heav —**



**ens. Your faith — ful — ness con — tin — ues for -**



### Prayer for the Day

P: O almighty God and Lord, you are righteous and you require righteousness from those who follow you. With great shame we must confess we are not acceptable. We have grumbled and complained. We have disobeyed and rebelled. We are have committed sins through weakness and willfulness. Yet, you do not deal with us as our sins deserve. You invite us to repent. You offer full and free forgiveness. You assure us you will receive us because you are merciful. Through your Word bring us daily to the cross of your Son. There we will see the horrible nature of our sin, as well as the great, undeserved compassion you have for us. Let the cross always guide us through this life until we come into your presence. Then we will praise you—together with your Son and the Holy Spirit—for your mercy, your compassion, and your undeserved favor.



### The Lessons from God's Word

*"With the Lord there is mercy and forgiveness!"*

#### Old Testament

*Numbers 21:4–9*

<sup>4</sup>They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along 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? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!”

<sup>6</sup>The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died.

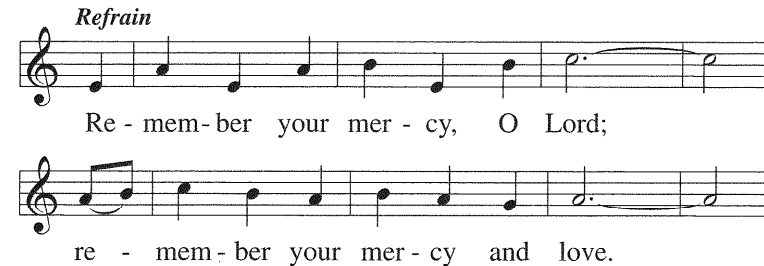
<sup>7</sup>The people went to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.”

<sup>9</sup>Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

### Psalm for the Day

### Psalm 32



Blessed is he whose transgressions are for- | given, \*  
whose sins are | covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy up- | on me; \*  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of | summer.

Then I acknowledged my | sin to you; \*  
and did not cover up my in- | iquity.

I said, “I will confess my transgression | to the LORD; \*

and you forgave the guilt | of my sin.

***Refrain***

You are my | hiding place; \*  
you will protect me from | trouble.

Many are the woes of the | wicked; \*  
but the LORD'S unfailing love surrounds those  
who | trust in him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son, \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

***Refrain***

**Epistle**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

<sup>3</sup>Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

<sup>4</sup>But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! <sup>6</sup>He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, 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 workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for

good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

### **Theme for the Day**

P: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, because my soul has taken refuge in you. In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge until destruction has passed by.

I call to God Most High, to God, who completes his plans for me. He will send from heaven, and he will save me. He puts to shame the one who pants as he pursues me. God will send his mercy and his faithfulness.

***Response by the congregation***      “Grace has a Thrilling Sound”  
*Christian Worship 381 st. 1 & 5*

Grace has thrilling sound to each believer’s ear;  
That peace with God through Christ is found  
In news I gladly hear.

Grace all our work shall crown through everlasting days;  
The heav’nly home God gives his own  
Shall echo with our praise.

### **The Gospel**

*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>so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten 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>The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup>This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil.

P: This is the Word of God—our invitation to confess, and our promise of mercy.



## Numbers 21:4-9

He calls sinners to repent  
He offers sinners forgiveness

*(we unite in the words of the Apostles' Creed)*

**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.

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

### **Prayer for the Lord's Blessing**

*Special Prayers and Requests*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**C: Our Father in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be your name,**  
    **your kingdom come,**  
    **your will be done on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins,**  
    **as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation,**  
    **but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power**  
    **and the glory are yours**  
    **now and forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn**

“Jesus, Sinners Does Receive”  
*Christian Worship 304*

### **Closing Prayer**

P: O gracious Savoir, your promise is “where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” We know our lives are filled with sin and rebellion. Both sins of weakness and willfulness bring us under your justice. Instead of dealing with us as our sins deserv-

ed, you showed compassion and forgave us. This act of undeserved love required your suffering and death on the cross. Yet, through your innocent sacrifice we are forgiven. Continue to lead us to the cross. There let us turn from our sins and return to you. Make your cross our confidence of eternal life in heaven, so that after a life of repentance and forgiveness, we can join you in your glory. There we will praise you, our Savior—together with the Father and the Spirit—throughout all eternity.



C: A ——— men.

### The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

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 his favor; and  
give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A ——— men.

### Closing Hymn

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

*Christian Worship 333*

### Silent Prayer

#### Announcements . . .

**Today** - *Welcome in the name of our good and gracious God!*  
How precious is the undeserved love of our God. In that love he does not deal with us as our sins deserve. He also shows us mercy and compassion in forgiving our sins. May this blessing of our God and Savior lead you to live a life of repentance and forgiveness. If you are visiting this morning, please sign a guest

card or the visitor book. We also invite you to worship again, soon!

- Coffee and snacks will be served following the service. Stay and enjoy time with friends in the Lord!

**Monday**—Handbell practice begins at 7:00 pm

**Tuesday**—Pastor's Circuit Study in Lancaster. The meeting starts at 9:30 am.

**Wednesday—Mid-Week Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm.** We continue with the series, "The Misery of Mankind and the Mercy of Jesus." This evening we see how God answered our most desperate need—"The Reign of Death is Defeated!"

**Friday**—Office hours from 10:00 am—2:30 pm.

**Saturday**—Clean: J. Schroeder

- Lawn mowing beginning March 17th—F. Florez

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>—Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am.** Whenever we recall Jesus' suffering and death, we may believe there was some hesitancy on his part to undertake such a tortured death. The writer to the Hebrews offers a completely different picture. With boldness, confidence, and complete obedience, Jesus marched toward his goal to give us eternal life.

- Christian Education will follow the service. Isaiah 43 will be the subject for discussion, especially the words spoken by the Lord—"Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

## Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Everson for monitoring the sound; to Josh Schueler for controlling the live stream; to Karolyn Hanna for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his many blessings; to Sonja Todd, Emily Proeber, and Sue Proeber for serving snacks after the service.



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OUR REDEEMER  
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