St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 11, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Rita Jordan, Organist
Stacey Mika, Lay Reader

408 S. Davidson Street  |  Karnes City, TX 78118
Office (830) 780-2251  |  Pastor Dorn (602) 565-9793
www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org
www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity
Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today’s gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✡ one God,
who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations,
who gives breath to us all.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Loving God,
we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.
Forgive us for the times
we have spoken or acted too quickly;
we have not spoken or acted at all;
we have hurt those closest to us;
we have hurt those we have yet to know;
we have thought more about ourselves than others;
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God’s love never runs out.
God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now:
Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✡ Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.
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.

KYRIE  (ELW page 175 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE  (ELW page 177 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

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.

Oh Dios, rico en misericordia, por la humillación de tu hijo levantaste este mundo caído y nos rescataste de la desesperanza de la muerte. Guíanos a tu luz, para que todas nuestras acciones puedan reflejar tu amor, por medio de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina con vos y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:  Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

4 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. 5 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.” 6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 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. 8 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.” 9 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.

Word of God, word of life.  
Thanks be to God.
R  You deliver your people from their distress.

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.  
2 Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,  
3 gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.  
17 Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.  
18 They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door.  
19 Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord and you delivered them from their distress. R  
20 You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.  
21 Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.  
22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives.

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 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.  
2 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.  
3 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us  
4 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
5 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
6 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—  
7 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.  
8 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.

Word of God, word of life.  
Thanks be to God.
Glory to You, O Lord!

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today’s first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] 14*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15*that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16*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. 17*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. 18*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. 19*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. 20*For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21*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 the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON
Rev. Arden G. Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY
(ELW p. 759) My Faith Looks Up to Thee
NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
  the Father, the Almighty,
  maker of heaven and earth,
  of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
  the only Son of God,
  eternally begotten of the Father,
  God from God, Light from Light,
  true God from true God, begotten, not made,
  of one Being with the Father;
  through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
  he came down from heaven,
  was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
  and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
  he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
  in accordance with the scriptures;
  he ascended into heaven
  and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
  and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
  who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
  who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
  who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
  and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured Elvira, Layton, Lorain, Pauline, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Matilda, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Barbara, Justin, Ella, Khloe, Jim, Charles, Eli, Casey, Steve, Marlane, Yvonne, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

*And also with you*

**Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*The assembly stands.*

**Offertory Hymn** *(ELW p. 186)*  *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Barmherziger Gott, empfangen das Opfer unser Lob und Danksagung und das Angebot von unserem Leben, nach dem Weg des Kreuzes, können wir wissen, dass die Freude der Auferstehung; durch Christus, unseren Herrn. Amen.
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.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

GREAT THANKSGIVING

San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del uni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del uni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que viene en el
earth. . . . Blest is he who comes in the

nom-bre del Se - ñor.
name . . . of the Lord.

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . .

di - to el que viene en el nom-bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who
preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and
glory, now and forever.

Amen

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your
family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be
blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward
may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.
Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.
Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

For Prayerful Consideration

*Ill or Injured*

*For those in the military*
Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

*Birthdays*
Merlene Rippstein, Dallas Thompson (Mar. 14), Courtney Witte (Mar. 18)

Looking Ahead!

Each Wednesday in Lent

Soup and Sandwich Fellowship: 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study: 6:20 p.m.
Worship: 7:00 p.m.
March 25, 10:30 am        Palm Sunday Worship
March 29, 7:00 pm        Maundy Thursday Worship
March 30,  7:00 pm      Good Friday Worship
April 1,  10:30 am  Easter Celebration Worship

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF KARNES COUNTY** will be going "On the Road" this year. If anyone would like to help St. Paul’s sponsor this event, today is the last day to contribute. Please write checks to: "American Cancer Society". If you have any questions please contact Barbara Jonas.

---

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Women**

**present the 13th annual**

**Spring Fling Style Show & Bazaar**

**Benefiting The American Cancer Society – Karnes County Relay For Life**

**March 24, 2018**

**2–4 PM**

Doors open at 1 PM for shopping.

**Entertainment by:**

**John Hanson “Legends in Time”**

Tickets - $15 Donation  
Please contact Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 830-583-2285 to get tickets or for information.

**ConocoPhillips Meeting Facility**  
located at the corner of CR 344 and FM 792  
Kenedy, Tx 78119  
Use the entrance marked “Guest Parking”. We will be in the building at the back.