

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 14, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem and the cross, so that we might have undeserved forgiveness for our sins.

Theme for the day:

Jesus is raised up on a cross as our example of how much we are loved and that he is our light in dark world.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: God is good.

People: **All the time.**

Pastor: All the time.

People: **God is good.**

Pastor: Let all God's people cry out in joy; God's steadfast love endures forever.

Unison: **Come! Let us worship the Lord of our salvation. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

God of immeasurable grace, you meet us in our time of need and cause your face to shine upon us. Your faithful and steadfast love endures forever, with your Son who was sent to the world that we might be saved. Redeem us this day, O God, that we may be found worthy of the One who came to bring us life. Open your Word and illuminate our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Ephesians 2:1-10** **John 3:14-21**

(readings begin on the next page)

Message: **GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!**

Pastoral Prayer

From God's immeasurable grace, we have been saved by faith. In thankfulness for this mighty gift, let us give thanks to the Lord and offer God homage, as we offer back our tithes and our offerings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. God of light and God of love, as Jesus shone your light into our troubled world, may our offering bring rays of your holy light into the dark corners of our world. May these gifts reach the places where the fear of death holds sway, that others may find Christ's life in the midst of their pain. We pray in Jesus's name and way. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Be blessed, and be a blessing to others. Be a blessing in love, and share with others. Be enlightened by God, and be a light to others.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS for March 14, 2021

first reading –EPHESIANS 2:1-10

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. 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.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 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, so that in the ages to come he might show

the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 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.

second reading – **JOHN 3:14-21**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “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. “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. 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. 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. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 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.”

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.