

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Moses, from The Macklin Bible

The Macklin Bible is an enormous physical specimen of book art, comprising seven volumes two feet in height and over 130 pounds in weight. It is the apogee of the art of British copper-plate engraving. Renowned artists often selected scripture texts that featured women, who were the nurturers of religious education for the family in late 18th century England. This powerful image of Moses by Benjamin West presents the Moses written of in the book of Numbers, chapter 21, verses 4-9. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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Welcome and Worship Announcements

Invocation

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Greeting

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 Eleison

“Lord, Have Mercy”



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

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

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. 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.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 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. 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.” 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.

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
- ²Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
- ³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
- ¹⁷Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.
- ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord
and were delivered from | their distress. R
- ²⁰The LORD sent forth his | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.
- ²¹Let them give thanks to the LORD | for his mercy,
and God's wonderful works | for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of God's deeds with | shouts of joy.

Second 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.

Gospel Acclamation

“Let Your Steadfast Love”



En tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



en tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



cum - ple la pro - me - sa de tu sal - va - ción;
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word,



tu pa - la - bra con - fia - ré.
we will trust your word.

Gospel**John 3: 14-21**

The Holy Gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “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.

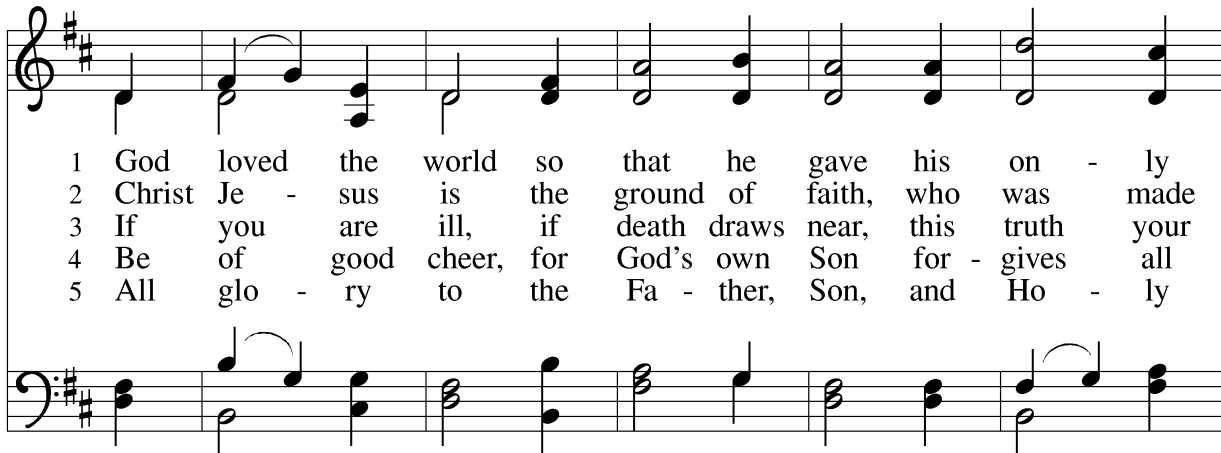
“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 of Intercession

Peace

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,
by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs,
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.
For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert,
calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness,
and walking with us into newness of life.
For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.
We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,
that strengthened by your Word,
we may care for others and for the world you made,
and work for justice and peace for all.
For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,
Holy God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“For By Grace”



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
2 “So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
God's great gift.” A - men.
God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka
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Announcements and Dismissal

Go in peace, share the good news.

Thanks be to God.