



4<sup>th</sup> Lent March 14, 2021: Worship at 9:30 am  
Gathering

*The Old Testament today lifts up the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. It is a promise we hold prefigures yet another. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross, and he reminds his listeners of the witness of Moses. When it feels like there is nothing else we can do, we do what we can: lift our eyes to the Cross.*

*We are gathered in the Spirit continuing our Lenten journey to Easter. Exploring what it means to be God's people longing for healing and hope. This season is different from any Lent in a century, both a challenge and an opportunity. May Lent's familiar practices continue to connect, as we pray, fast and give in these times. May we open our hearts this Lent ready to hear, ready to be blessed.*

*May this faith journey bless, strengthen and renew us as we keep Lent together.*

**WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF MERCY**

We begin remembering that we are baptized and made children of God  
in the Name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

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.**

May your Lenten journey lead you to know the love and mercy of God,  
refreshing and renewing your faith, bringing you to the fullness of new life in Christ.  
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen!**

## GATHERING SONG: MY FAITH LOOKS UP



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray; *Silence* 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.**

## Word

*Silence for reflection follows each reading.*

The first reading is from Numbers, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

<sup>4</sup>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. <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? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Numbers 21:4-9*

*Silence for Reflection*

Psalm 107 is read responsively by verse.

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. **Amen.**

The second lesson is from Ephesians the second chapter.

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

**But now in these last days God has spoken to us by his Son.**

**GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not

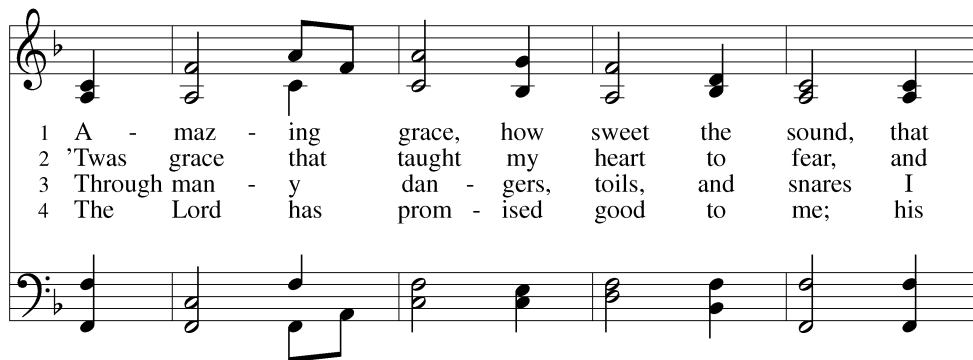
believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

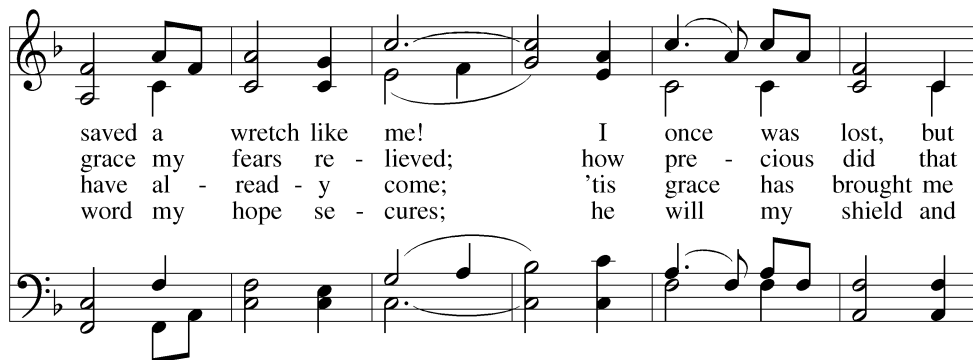
## TEACHING THE WORD

*Silence for reflection.*

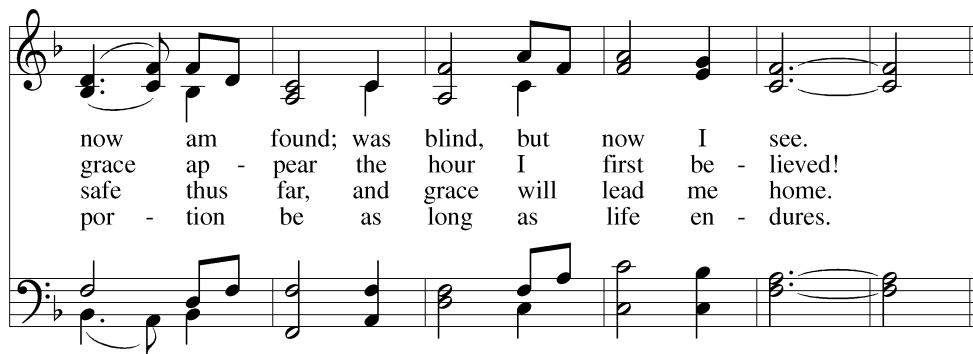
### HYMN OF THE DAY: AMAZING GRACE, TUNE: NEW BRITAIN



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

## THE 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 to the dead.  
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 THE FAITHFUL

As we journey through the waters of Lent, let us bring before God our prayers for renewal, refreshment and healing, for ourselves and for the world.

*A brief silence.*

God, rich in mercy: You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world so that all may know God's mercy and love. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Give us eyes to see your abundance where fear or greed or change create anxiety. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter, especially The Lord's Pantry, our Tinicum Health Ministry, Tabor Home, Lakeside, Blessings by the Box and all the ministries and ways we serve, individually and as a congregation. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Hear our prayers for

- all in need of healing care, and those who cannot find or access the care they need...
- those who are struggling to meet the needs of home and work and family...
- all weary and stressed by trying to make ends meet, and by financial fears...
- for all who long for peace and justice among nations and neighbors...

*Other petitions and prayers may be offered.*

Give us confidence to bring all our prayers, all our needs, all our fears to you.  
Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ, and give thanks for their witness. May we lift up the promise of new life to all who mourn that we find comfort. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, hear our cry when we call to you; renew and uphold us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

#### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. Our tithes and offerings may be gathered to be given by mail, given online at [christpipersville.org](http://christpipersville.org) or using the QR code.*



## OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
**and take not your Holy Spirit from me**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of steadfast love,

**at this table you gather your people into one body.**

**Strengthen us to be faithful in prayer, refreshed by fasting, and generous in charity,  
walking in the way of the Gospel for the sake of the world.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*The gifts are prepared for the Lord's Table*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God,  
holy, almighty and merciful.

For You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

Who, in the night in which He was betrayed,  
He 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."

With the whole people of God, we remember and give thanks  
praying with trust and hope for the coming of the Kingdom  
in the words our Savior 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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

#### **AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **grant us peace. Amen!**

#### **INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy are we who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*We share in the Lord's Body and Blood. Pastor will say:*

*This is the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you!*

*Then consume the Sacrament as you wish. Silence for prayer and reflection as we commune. Then:*

#### **TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER**

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. **Amen!**

Let us pray: Merciful God,

**In this meal you have nourished us with your gifts of faith and peace. As we journey through Lent strengthen us to be persistent in prayer, refreshed by fasting, and generous in charity, going in the way of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Sending Announcements**

*Announcements were sent earlier in the week by USPS and email. Pastor may choose to call attention to one or more, or share announcements that were not included.*

#### **BENEDICTION**

May God give you strength to turn to him, and know his richest blessings.  
May The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen**

## SENDING SONG: COME THOU FOUNT

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

## DISMISSAL

Dwell in peace, go forth to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Prayers

*Prayer to bless a home prayer altar:*

*God, our refuge and hope: Thank you for my/our home and these walls that shelter me/us. Bless this place I/we have set to remind us that you are present. May it call me/us to prayer, help me/us to follow and love you day by day. In the Name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen!*

*Prayer to bless the Lord's Table at home:*

*Creating God, I/ we are gathered with my/our brothers and sisters across time and place, preparing to hear your Word and receive the gift of Your Body and Blood. Be present to bless, consecrate this place and time, and nourish us to live in hope. Amen!*

## Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor  
the people of Christ Church, ministers  
Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary  
Mr. Jeff Cron, Council President

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## The Announcements

**REMEMBER TO CHECK** the church web site ([www.christpipersville.org](http://www.christpipersville.org)) for worship and meeting updates and worship videos and resources or contact the church office.

**NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP** is currently being held. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to Facebook and our website.

**TODAY'S BULLETIN** is presented to the Glory of God and in appreciation to Pastor Caron, Mike and Nick given by the Szymanowski Family.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Joe (H,R), Erin (P), Christine (H), H.K. (H) and the Brown Family (H,St). Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

**APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – The deadline for submitting news items for the next edition of *Christ's Call* is TODAY. Please place any news items in Cindy's mailbox or email them to the church office.

**LENT COIN OFFERING** this year has again been designated for our local youth hunger project: Blessings by the Box. Your coins or other donations may be placed in an envelope or container marked as "coin offering" and mailed or dropped off at the church. Last year's recipients were most grateful for this help in feeding their families.

**EASTER LILIES & REMEMBRANCES:** We are preparing for our Easter celebration, and have lilies available to decorate the altar. We have a limited number, so please reply ASAP with the number you would like, and the inscription. The cost is \$8.50/lily and checks should be made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church". Order deadline is March 28, 2021. Your orders may be placed by phone, dropped off at the church, sent by mail or email. Payments may be made through our web site, dropped off or mailed. You may also make a donation to one of the special church funds.

**BLESSINGS BY THE BOX** - We will again be offering assistance to local Tinicum families facing food insecurity this summer. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions we will be distributing Giant gift cards instead of actual food items. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Blessings by the Box" and either mail it or drop it off at the church by *June 15th*. We will be distributing the gift cards in late June. Thank you!

**BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS:** You may now sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one similar to the way altar flowers had been sponsored and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Please contact the church office to arrange your sponsorship.

**GIANT GIFT CARDS** can be purchased during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,500 in 2020 and \$200 so far in 2021.

**WHAT TO WATCH** - Looking for something new to watch or want to recommend something? Send your recommendation to [christpipersville@gmail.com](mailto:christpipersville@gmail.com), we'll post one family recommendation a week here in this spot. This week's recommendations come from the Crons - Jeff recommends: "Biggest Little Farm" (movie), Sandra: "Longmire" (Netflix Series), Ava: "Modern Family", Nate: "Strange Magic" (movie), Allie: "Lilo & Stitch" (movie).

**DID YOU KNOW...**Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$2,180.00 through this program in 2020 and \$641.00 so far this year.

**THE LORD'S PANTRY** has a continuing need for donations. During the month of March we will be collecting cereal, toilet paper and tissues, but all types of canned/dry goods are welcome (peanut butter, cereal, soup, etc.). Donations may be placed in the pantry cabinet by the parking lot doors or contact the church office to make drop off arrangements. You may also purchase Giant gift cards to be provided to The Lord's Pantry.

### *Week of March 14<sup>th</sup> at a Glance*

- Sun. 03/14 The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)  
April/May Newsletter Deadline  
*Daylight Savings Time Begins*
- Wed. 03/17 6:00PM Lent Souper Zoom (watch your email for details)  
Happy Birthday, Diane Allison and Jim Campbell!
- Thur. 03/18 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9:00AM Bible Study  
Happy Birthday, Amy Zearfoss!
- Fri. 03/19 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off  
Happy Anniversary, James and Cindy Carper!
- Sun. 03/21 The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)  
Happy Birthday, Cindy Lysinger!