

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



First Sunday in Lent
Service of The Word
Evangelical Lutheran Worship
February 21, 2021

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America (ELCA).

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ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

I want Jesus to walk with me—Florence Price
(from *Ten Spirituals for Piano*)

More on today's music is listed at the end of the bulletin.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C **Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Fountain of living water,

C **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

*GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lisa Wackler

Today's other readings are:

Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (*Ps. 25:10*)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Saved through water

READING

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

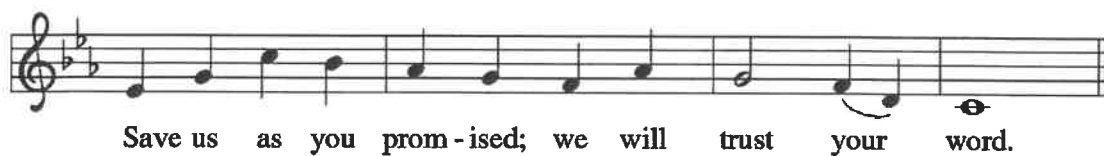
⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds,

I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL

Mark 1: 9-15

P The Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

#613

Thy holy wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

INSTALLATION OF NEW LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

A The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership: Mihkel Smit as Council President; Beth Huber, Dave Hollar, Angela Husky and Jason Stonerook as Council Members; and Mark Dueholm as Congregational Treasurer.

P You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Leaders' Response (they will accept their duties from home by saying): **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C **Amen.**

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 INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

(Please remember to send your offering via mail, online giving or by text. Our Text2Give number is 844-262-6943)

OFFERING ANTHEM

Jesus walked this lonesome valley—spiritual, arr. Hal Hopson

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves;
Oh nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves.

Jesus bore the cross of sorrow, he had to bear it by himself;
Oh, nobody else could bear it for him, he had to bear it by himself.

We must take our cross and follow; yes, we must follow by ourselves;
Oh, nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.

Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death
to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you
illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy
Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

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. 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

P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you \dagger that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **C Amen.**

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

#618

Guide me ever, great Redeemer



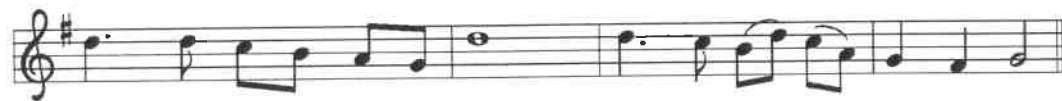
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem-er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially; For all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, for those suffering in Texas, Donald Parker, Molly, Michael, Ryleigh Ward and her family, Benny, Bob Janshego, Doris Savage, David Huberman, Judy Baumgardner, Carmen Ortiz, the Revana and Mahan families, family and friends of Maggie Oxland upon her death, Jane, Barb Pitts, Carolyn Boston, Michon, Taquina, Levi, Julie Hamlin, the Carr family, Pearl Apisson, Gillian Flory, Russell and Stephanie Thomas, Joan Tolbert, Stefanie Skurcenski, Barbara Hostage, Sue Ericsson, Russell Stevens, Glenn Ralph, Betty Mastrobattista, Richard, Carolyn Denison, Lois Leland, Bill Jackson, Grace Yin, Ralph Benson, Neal, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith throughout the world.

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ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

As part of St. Paul Lutheran's observance of Black History Month, February 2021, our service music continues to highlight works by African-American composers and some hymns drawn from the traditions of spirituals and gospel music. The prelude is a piano setting by Florence Price (1887-1953; first African-American woman recognized as a symphonic composer) of a spiritual included in our hymnal's Lent section at #325--*I want Jesus to walk with me*:

*I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*In my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost
breaking, Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me; when my head is bowed
in sorrow, Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.*

This hymn's text about walking with Jesus underscores the theme of the 40 days of Lent being a journey. This hymn will reappear next Sunday in a different form.

The offering anthem sung by a subset of the choir is another spiritual about the Lenten journey.