

Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent

LENTEN BEGINNING

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Lenten Prelude”
Sharon Gray, organ

Jonathan Battishill

APOSTLES’ CREED – Jeff Langdon

**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!**

WELCOMING SONG

“Open Our Eyes Lord”

**Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus**

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.**

KYRIE

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P *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *Holy God, heavenly Father,*

C **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. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“At the River”
David Bezona, tenor

arr. Aaron Copland

FIRST READING – Carol Roever, 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.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Reflection

If you haven't read the story of Noah, you can find it in Genesis 6:11-8:22. Our text is God's covenant (promise in which God is the one who promises) with Noah and his family. (verses 8-9) Who else is included in this covenant promise? (verses 9-10) What does God promise to Noah (and all of us who are descendants of Noah)? (verse 11) God also makes a sign for this covenant. What is it? (verse 12-13) What does this sign do? (verses 14-16) Verse 17 is an affirmation of what God has said. We have lived through floods before. If you remember those floods, what do you remember about them? I remember that in the flood of 1993 we were in Kansas City for Sarah's confirmation. We almost didn't make it home! And when we got home, the water had been shut off because the water plant had been flooded and could not pump water. How did you call on God in a time with both too much water and no water?

Psalm 25:1-10— read together with David Bezona

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Reflection

What does the psalmist ask God? (verses 1-2) We don't know what the psalmist's enemies have done, except in broad terms. What does the psalmist think of those enemies? (verse 3) What does the psalmist ask God to do? (verses 4-5) Why does the psalmist believe God will help and forgive? (verses 6-8) Who are the lowly? (verse 9) Is the psalmist one of them? Are you one of them? Whose promises does the psalmist count on? (verse 10)

SECOND READING – Kathy Wessler, reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reflection

The author is in the midst of an exhortation to suffer, if we must, for doing right rather than for doing evil. (see 1 Peter 3:13-17) Why did Christ suffer? (verse 18) Who is included in the benefits of Christ's suffering? How does Christ's suffering affect Christ? Who else benefits from Christ's suffering? (verses 19-20) What does the author say happened to those who perished in Noah's flood? How does Noah's flood affect us? (verse 21) How does this connect with Christ's suffering, resurrection, and ascension? (verse 22) How are we saved through baptism? (If you need to be reminded, see the section on Baptism in Luther's Small Catechism.)

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

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**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised;
we will trust your word.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

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 Jesus 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 Jesus 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 dominion of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news.”

Reflection

Mark’s gospel does not have a long story about Jesus’ baptism and temptation, as do Matthew and Luke? Mark’s story is our text for today. What do we know about Jesus’ baptism from Mark’s gospel? Who baptized him, and where was he baptized? (verse 9) What happened after he was baptized? (verse 10) How did he know the Spirit came to him? What did he hear? (verse 11) When else did this happen? (see Mark 9:2-9, and 15:33-39) In case we think Jesus just happened by when John was baptizing, Mark’s gospel makes it clear how these events are connected. What happened next? (verse 12) One of the questions that the stories of Jesus’ temptation raises is, why? Who is responsible for this temptation event? Something important to Jesus’ call as God’s child happened here. How long was he in the wilderness? (verse 13) Who tempted him? Do you think Satan is God’s servant in this story? What role do the “wild beasts” have? Are they tempters or comforters? Who else is with him? What did they do for him? In verse 14 we have the notice that John was arrested (we won’t get the whole story for several chapters yet). Where did Jesus go? One of the questions I have is, did Jesus go to Galilee so that he was out of Herod’s reach? (see Mark 6:17-29) Or because it was his home region? What did he do in Galilee? (verse 15) How is this connected with Jesus’ baptism and temptation?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Joyce Stroud

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

“Out in the Wilderness”

**Driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness;
driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness;
when the Spirit says, “Go,” you can’t say, “No.”
You listen for the voice when you’re bended low;
driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness.**

**Tempted by the devil out in the wilderness;
tempted by the devil out in the wilderness;
though you try to be strong, it’s been so long.
He whispers in your ear and you know he’s wrong;
tempted by the devil out in the wilderness.**

**Angels all around you out in the wilderness;
angels all around you out in the wilderness;
you are far from home where wild things roam.
There’s danger ev’rywhere but you’re not alone;
angels all around you out in the wilderness.**

**“You are my beloved” out in the wilderness.
“You are my beloved” out in the wilderness.
When you were baptized you realized
you’d heard the voice of God from the op’ning skies:
“You are my beloved” out in the wilderness.**

PRAYER SONG

“Change My Heart Oh God”

**Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Jim & Carol Roever

We remember in our prayers

Keith Hohly, Floreen Johnson, Dave Newman, Chris and Andy Wilson (friends of Sharon Gray), Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams, Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson, Dorothy Masteller, Dee Rasmussen and the family of Marlene Hebb

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. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Keith, Floreen, Dave, Chris and Andy, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, the family of Marlene and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. 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.

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!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

A **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,*

A **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.

A **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

A **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P *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:*

SANCTUS

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are
most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.
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.*

*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.*

*For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.*

☩ Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

**☩ 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!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ *Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

☞ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☞ **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ *God of steadfast love,*

☞ **at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in
the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

BENEDICTION

☞ *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 ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.*

☞ **Amen!**

SENDING SONG

“Forever”

**Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever**

For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Refrain

Sing praise sing praise
Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise. *Rrefrain*

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

P *Go in peace and serve our Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Sharon Gray, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

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Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Kathy Wessler, and Roger Lenander

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

“Change My Heart Oh God” | CCLI Song # 1565 | Eddie Espinosa
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