

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

LENT 2021

GATHERING

We enter in a spirit of contemplation, as the beloved people of God, and the prelude helps to prepare us for worship. Words said by the pastor/leader are in plain type; words said by the congregation are in bold.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Amen.

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.

Fountain of living water,
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.

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.

Amen.

KYRIE

Marty Haugen, Now the Feast and Celebration

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
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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:

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.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING *Genesis 9:8-17*

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.”

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

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My 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.

⁴**Show 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.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion 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
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

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

SECOND READING *1 Peter 3:18-22*

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.

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

REFRAIN

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Verse

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL *Mark 1:9-15*

The Holy Gospel, according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

After hearing the sermon, we proclaim the word of God in song.

1 Lord, keep us steady in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known, for you are
 3 O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and

by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son
 Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church, that we
 unity on earth; support us in our final strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise eternally.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, responding to each petition with words echoing today's psalm, "In you we put our trust."

A brief silence.

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship.

Receive our prayers, O God:

In you we put our trust.

Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create.

Receive our prayers, O God:

In you we put our trust.

Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan and stem the might of tyrants the world over.

Receive our prayers, O God:

In you we put our trust.

Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. We pray especially for those who are suffering in the wake of the winter storm, that their power and water will be restored and that they might be safely brought through this time. Surround them with a community of concern.

Receive our prayers, O God:

In you we put our trust.

Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: For Tom, Alyson, Nathaniel, Clare, Karen, Ingrid, Mason, Lauren, Emmy, Sean, Sarah, Juli, Adeline, and all those we carry in our hearts. We pray for all who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you. Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer.

Receive our prayers, O God:
In you we put our trust.

Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts.

Receive our prayers, O God:
In you we put our trust.

We praise you for the Christians of time past, especially Polycarp and all the martyrs who died in their witness to you. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things.

Receive our prayers, O God:
In you we put our trust.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gifts of Christ's peace.

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

OFFERING

A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all of God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.
Amen.

THE 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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *(written by Rev. Katie Hines-Shah)*

Blessed are you,
O God of the Universe
You protect and preserve us
And make the ordinary holy
Through the power of your love.

Praise to you for all of creation!

For making humankind from the very dust of the earth
and giving us all we need for sustenance.

Praise to you for preserving Noah and his family
through their 40 days of sheltering in place
and giving them the sign of the rainbow
when it was safe to venture out again.

Praise to you for bringing the Hebrew people
safely through the sea and beyond the reach of oppression.

In the wilderness you provided them with manna and water from the rock
as they journeyed into a new reality.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one:

Who turned water into wine.

Who fed thousands with a few loaves and fish.

Who healed, taught, and blessed,
all those who came close to him
and those separated by distance.

Who loved the world so much that he became one of us,
sharing our common life,
suffering and dying,

And gloriously rising,

breaking the bonds of sin, death and the devil
so that nothing could ever separate us from you.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 this bread and this cup
We remember Jesus's presence among us
As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life,
Pour out your Holy Spirit,
Make this bread and wine before us
The body and blood of your Son.
Enter into our locked rooms
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Strengthen and preserve us for the trials we endure now.
Send us your Holy Spirit
to comfort, empower, challenge, and encourage us
to be a sign of resurrection to the world.

Come Holy Spirit!

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with those gathered on screens across time and space,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:
God of steadfast love,
at this table,
at all these tables,
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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

You are who 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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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