

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
21 February 2021



*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey towards baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

## ✝ GATHERING ✝

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P. Trusting in God, Who brings us out of death into life, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen.
- P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God Who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

- P. Gracious God,
- C. I confess that I am held captive by sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart, I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I pray for forgiveness I cannot earn and renewal I do not merit, given only through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P. Almighty God looks upon you with mercy, and through Baptism has joined you to the saving death of Jesus Christ so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, you too might walk in newness of life. 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.
- C. Amen.

## GREETING

- P. The endless grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the rich mercy of God and the unity 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, keep us steadfast in Your Word and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us. May Your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C. Amen

## + WORD +

### FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8–17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord 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.*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for Me, I am establishing My covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and 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. <sup>11</sup>I 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.” <sup>12</sup>God 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: <sup>13</sup>I have set My bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>When 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.” <sup>17</sup>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.”

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 25:1-9

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in You;  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>2</sup>Let none who look to You be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

<sup>3</sup>Show me Your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me Your paths.

<sup>4</sup>Lead me in Your truth and teach me,  
for You are the God of my salvation;  
in You have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>5</sup>Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>6</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to Your love  
and for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright is the LORD;  
therefore He teaches sinners in His way.

<sup>8</sup>He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches His way to the lowly.

<sup>9</sup>All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

#### **SECOND 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.*

Christ 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also He went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who 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. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>Who 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.

#### **HOLY GOSPEL: St. 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.*

#### **C. Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

<sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are My Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on Him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and 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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *A Mighty Fortress*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

### SHARING THE PEACE

✠ PRAYER ✠

### OFFERING

P. God our provider,

C. You have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us  
and these Your gifts, which we receive from Your bounty. Strengthen us to use  
Your gifts wisely, that we may be a blessing to others. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are  
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.

C. 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.

C. Your mercy is great.

All Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of all who govern or hold positions of authority in our nation and around the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Hear us O God.

C. 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, those who are abused or neglected, those who are lonely, for medical workers who are exhausted and all those struggling to find adequate employment. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, we pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia and Jim and Norma. Hear us O God.

C. 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 our congregations' ministries of care and concern. Hear us O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

In baptism, You join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. 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.

C. Your mercy is great.

Trusting in Your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to You, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P. As you die and rise with Christ in baptism, may you also live and serve like Christ.  
The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

P. Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

## Those who Serve:

**Ministers:** All the People of God   **Presiding:** Pastor Munter  
**Organist:** Lou Knutson                   **Reader:** Paula Syltie:  
**Camera:** Josh Sumption               **Projection:** Kendon Knutson/James Kamrath  
**Sound Room:** Ken Jeremiason & Jerome Bruns

## How to reach us:

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Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson  
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen  
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridal, Norma Dovre

## February 14, 2021

General: \$2,879.50 (\$479.50 received through eGiving)

Savings: \$120.00

Includes: \$100.00 in memory of Mavis Anderson. \$20.00 for Organ.

## February 16, 2021

General: \$2,000.00 from Funding Reserves to cover payment of monthly bills and expenses.

## **Wednesday night Lenten Worship Broadcast live on Facebook at 7:00 pm No in person worship**

This year the Lenten worship will be online only based on today's Old Testament reading, **Genesis 9:8–17**, with additional reflections on the Second Reading, **1 Peter 3:18–22**. It will be the familiar Old Testament story of Noah.

**Tune in and join in.**