



ST. PAUL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Digital Worship

www.facebook.com/SPLutherville and www.stpaulslutherville.org

Welcome to our digital worship service to gather as a community online since we can't gather in person! If you haven't already done so, take a moment to quiet your space by turning down/off other devices, lighting a candle, grabbing your Bible, and breathe a bit before we start. If you're going to be joining in celebrating Communion today, make sure to have your bread and wine/juice nearby.

If you're joining the live feed through Facebook, comment to "say hello" and connect with one another. Feel free to use the "share" button and to help spread the reach of our ministry!

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *I Come to the Cross* – instrumental and vocal by Steve Dooley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

GATHERING SONG: *Take My Life* by Scott Underwood

Holiness, holiness is what I long for, Holiness is what I need
Holiness, Holiness is what you want from me

Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I long for, Faithfulness is what I need
Faithfulness, faithfulness is what you want from me

So take my heart; conform it; Take my mind; transform it
Take my will; conform it to your, to yours, oh Lord

Righteousness, righteousness is what I long for, Righteousness is what I need
Righteousness, righteousness is what you want from me

So take my heart; conform it; Take my mind; transform it
Take my will; conform it to your, to yours, oh Lord

So take my heart; conform it; Take my mind; transform it
Take my will; conform it to your, to yours, oh Lord

To yours, to yours oh Lord

To yours to yours oh Lord

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children of all ages are welcome to come and gather close to the screen to join in a message just for them! After we pray together, they will be invited to rejoin others in their home for the readings.

FIRST 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.

A reading from Genesis.

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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

A reading from the Psalms.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

A reading from First Peter.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* - Author Unknown, Based on Psalm 51

Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord ~ And take not Thy Holy Spirit from Me
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation ~ And renew a right spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord ~ And take not Thy Holy Spirit from Me
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation ~ And renew a right spirit within me,
And renew a right spirit within me ~ And renew a right spirit within me

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.

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. We pray this day for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. We pray for the service women and men of our country, and for peace-keepers and peace-makers everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Guide the work of our LEAD journey: for our community partners and our neighbors in Lutherville. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, you are always with us. Abide with us as we offer these additional prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space of silence and sharing... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

PREPARING THE TABLE

If you will be joining in sharing the Meal of Holy Communion in your own home, now is the opportunity to prepare your home table with bread and cup.

GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

SHARING THE MEAL

If you are sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion by yourself or with others in your home, use the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you share the bread with one another, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you share the cup. You may choose to dip your bread into the cup, or to consume the bread and then drink from the cup.

If you are not sharing in the Meal today, please join in reflection and prayer as the music is offered, until we all gather back together.

REFLECTION SONG: *O Come to the Altar* by Elevation Worship

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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: *In the Secret* by Andy Park

In the secret in the quiet place, In the stillness You are there
In the secret in the quiet hour I wait, only for You ~ 'Cause I want to know You more

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice ~ I want to know You more
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face ~ I want to know You more

I am reaching for the highest goal, That I might receive the prize
Pressing onward, Pushing every hindrance aside, Out of my way
'Cause I want to know You more

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice ~ I want to know You more
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face ~ I want to know You more

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice ~ I want to know You more
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face ~ I want to know You more
In the secret in the quiet place, In the stillness You are there

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

God has given us so much! The Offering is the opportunity for us to share some of those gifts for the work of the church and the needs of the world. Thank you for your generosity!

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at www.stpaulslutherville.org. You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this morning!

Reader, First Lesson	Wanda Bagent
Reader, Psalm	Wanda Bagent
Reader, Second Lesson	Mary Anne Karmann
Prayer Leader	Mary Anne Karmann
Contemporary Musician, Guitar	Steve Dooley