

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THURSDAY, 1:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 18, 2021

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 21, 2021

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward 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.

Welcome to guests and visitors! This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by **☐** and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

"It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X). "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI). "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50).

Thursday music: O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (ELW # 319).

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☐ Amen.

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God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☩ Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**☩ we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done**

and by what we have left undone.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen.

ENTRANCE PSALM (91)

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

**☩ ²He shall say to the Lord,
“You are my refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

³He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings;
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

⁵You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

⁶of the plague that stalks in the darkness,
nor of the sickness that lays waste at midday.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

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

☩ Lord, have mercy.

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.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

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

☩ Lord, have mercy.

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

☩ Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 25:1-9

¹To 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.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame;

☩ let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O Lord,

☪ and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me,

**☪ for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

☪ for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

**☪ remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord;

☪ therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right

☪ and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All 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

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Lord will command his angels concerning you

☩ to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

☩ so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

One does not live by bread alone,

☩ but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

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

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Thursday music: [Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word \(ELW # 517\)](#).

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**☞ 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

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☞ Your mercy is great.

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

☞ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

OFFERING PSALM (91)

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

**☪ ²He shall say to the Lord,
“You are my refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

⁵You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**☪ ⁶of the plague that stalks in the darkness,
nor of the sickness that lays waste at midday.**

⁷A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
but it shall not come near you.

**☪ ⁸Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.**

⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

**☪ ¹⁰there shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

☪ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

☪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ . . .

. . . 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☪ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

☪ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

MUSICAL OFFERING

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (91)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☩ Amen.

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

**☩ ²He shall say to the Lord, “You are my refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

³He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence.

**☩ ¹¹For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.**

¹²They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

**☩ ¹³You shall tread upon the lion and the adder;
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.**

¹⁴Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

**☩ ¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor.**

¹⁶With long life will I satisfy him,
and show him my salvation.

**☩ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

CLOSING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

☞ Thanks be to God.

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Secure Even When It's Not Safe

The world is unsafe in countless ways. It contains wilderness after wilderness, places where temptation and danger seem to reign. Struggle, pain, fear, violence, hate, death, and suffering are all part of the uncertain world that we wake to each day.

Today, the Gospel of Mark discusses Jesus' own encounter with the wilderness. After he was baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus was driven into the desert wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. What's more, when Jesus left the wilderness to re-enter society, he encountered another kind of dangerous wilderness, a world where John the Baptist had just been arrested for confronting Herod Antipas and his wife Herodias with some hard-hitting truth.

After forty days of temptation, Jesus was met by yet another temptation: to play it safe in a world that had just silenced his friend for doing exactly the kind of thing that Jesus came to do. Despite the risk posed by worldly power players like Herod, Jesus proceeded to teach, heal, and spread the good news of God's kingdom. Despite the danger, Jesus trusted in the promise that God's love was bigger than the wilderness of human wiles.

The world is not safe, and believing in Jesus does not change this fact. However, we are secure in an unsafe world because of the promises made by God in baptism. Think of children who are secure in the love of their parents. They may go to school and face bullies—a painful experience, for sure—but they are less likely to trust the lies of the bullies because they know a deeper truth about themselves, a truth instilled by the love of their parents. So it is with us. There is danger and wilderness all around, but we are secure in the truth of our baptism: we are God's beloved children, with whom God is well pleased. Grounded in this secure love, we derive courage to set out into the wild.