



First Sunday of Lent Sunday, February 21, 2021

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Setting by Lynn Petersen
Carrie Stelter, cello

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Sometimes we stride through this life arrogantly, believing that our achievements come exclusively via our own brilliance, our own perseverance.

Sometimes we race through this life recklessly, feeling that we must compete and that we must finish first.

Sometimes we tiptoe through this life fearfully, worried that we will be shortchanged of what we need and of what we want.

Sometimes we meander through this life inattentively, unsuspecting that our words may harm or our actions may injure.

Sometimes we slip through this life spitefully, supposing that grudges should be kept and forgiveness should be withheld.

Sometimes we wander through this life

obliviously, unaware that small and large miracles surround us.

Sometimes we skulk through this life suspiciously, thinking that trust is a misguided danger.

Sometimes we barrel through this life heedlessly, ignoring that there is goodness and beauty to be noticed.

Sometimes we stomp through this life noisily, forgetting that God just may be waiting to meet us in the silence.

(enter into silent prayers of confession)

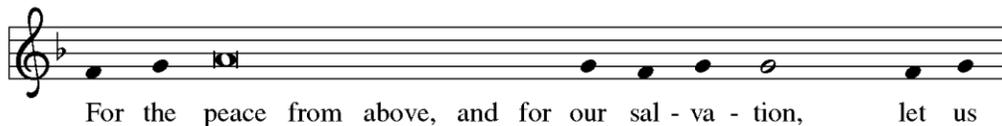
Forgive us for treading so blindly on this journey.

Forgive us, but then outfit us with generosity, purpose, wonder, humility, and sight for the next leg of this journey with you. **Amen.**

Kyrie — from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Two*



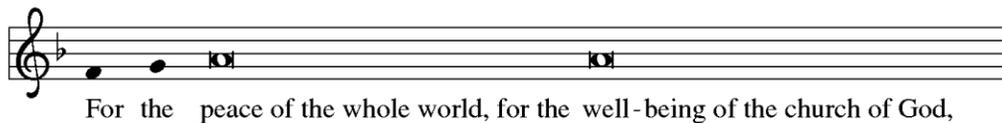
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



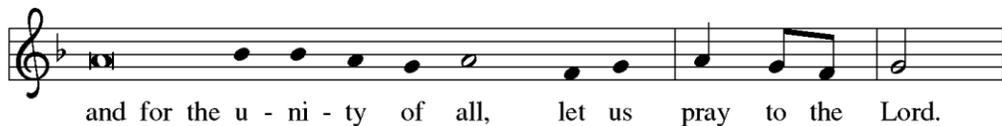
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



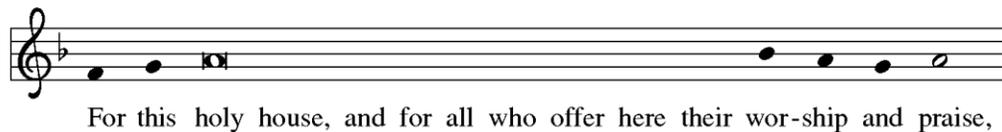
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of justice, lend us your sight as we journey through the desert, driven by your spirit to break down walls and barriers, including the ones we build around you. Help us find ways to end separations and divisions and to be unified in your limitless love. In Jesus's name we pray,
Amen.

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — 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.”

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, Yahweh,
I lift up my soul.
My God, I trust in you;
don't let me be ashamed,
don't let my enemies triumph over me.
No--none who hope in you will be ashamed,
but shame will come to the wantonly
treacherous.
Show me your ways, Yahweh!
Teach me your paths!
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.
I wait all the day long for you.

Remember your mercies, Yahweh, your love--
your ancient and unwavering love!
Pardon the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
remember me because of your love,
because of your goodness, Yahweh!
And how good and upright you are, Yahweh!
You instruct sinners in the path,
you guid the humble in what is right,
and teach them your way.
All of your paths, Yahweh,
are full of love and faithfulness
for those who keep your Covenant and Testimonies.

A Reading from the Epistles — I 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.

Gospel Acclamation — from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Two*



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



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



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

Gospel — Mark 1:9-15

The Gospel of Mark, the 1st chapter.
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 our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Jesus’ Wilderness and our Wilderness”

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

Hymn —

“As Your Spirit in the Desert”
Sung to the tune PICARDY

As your Spirit in the desert
led the Christ to dust and stone,
so instill our hearts with courage
now to cross where Christ has gone.
Let us cross into the wilderness
so to walk where Christ has gone.

As your fire and cloudy pillar
Israel's tribes to Canaan led,
may your presence be our comfort,
may your manna be our bread.
Let us cross into the wilderness
with God's manna as our bread.

Though wild beasts may lurk in shadow,
and dire thirst may sear and sting,
you have promised living waters
waiting for us at the spring.
Let us cross out of the wilderness
to the waters of the spring.

Through the narrow gate now draw us,
past all empire's pull and strife,
where beyond our fear and clinging
stands the threshold of new life.
Let us cross out of the wilderness
to the threshold of new life.

God of Desert, God of Promise,
you have bid us journey on
through the days of dust and darkness
to the rising of the dawn.
Let us cross out of the wilderness
to the rising of the dawn.

Lenten Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Creator,
who made me and all things,
who set me on my path in this world.

I believe in God the Savior,
who is one with the Creator,
who rescued me and all creation
from the depredations of our violations
against God and creation.
This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ,
walked a path through this world,
taking on human form having been born of a
woman through the power of the Holy Spirit.
He lived and worked in this world among
people just like me.
He walked God's path to death on a cross,
and rose from the dead to open our pathway
to eternal life.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor
and guide,
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,
who through the body and blood of Jesus
brings me into communion with all people,
past, present and future;
who calls me to walk a sacred way of life
through this world,
caring for creation and the people I meet on
the way,
loving them, helping them, welcoming them
without prejudice,
being God's hands and feet in the world.

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. 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. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.

You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. See and follow Jesus out of the wilderness. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Acknowledgements

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Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen

Cantor: Emily Bruflat

Lector/Assistant: Izzy Avant and Monique Sebring

Announcements

Congrats to Calleigh! The Church Council is pleased to announce that Tuesday night, at its February meeting, the Council voted to replace the Temporary Ministry Associate staff position with a new staff position titled Director of Youth and Family Ministry. The Council is also pleased to announce that it has retained current staff member Calleigh Carlson in this position through January 31, 2022. This was done to place an emphasis on serving the youth and families in our congregation."

Communion Kits: Sign up by THIS Friday, February 26 to receive a kit by calling the office 507 934-3060, emailing flcstpoffice@gmail.com or filling out a Google Form here: <https://tinyurl.com/y55nzav8>

First Lutheran Friday Forum - Embracing Diversity: How Does Social Justice Fit into Church?

Pastor Bill Nelsen and Dr. Darrell Jodock, Professor Emeritus of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College, will lead us through a discussion based on the work they have done on the topic of Social Justice and the Church. Together they have been working on the issue of "Embracing Religious and Racial Diversity".

Friday, February 26, 2021 from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Here's the link to register for the online forum:

[Embracing Diversity](#)

Preparation for Call Committee: We have begun the initial process of "bringing members of the congregation together to share ideas, feedback and visions that will be extremely important for the work of the Call Committee and eventually the incoming Pastor."

- Meetings this week; Last two opportunities. Feb 25th at 7pm and Feb 26 at 11:00am. Small groups (up to 12 people) to foster better communication and idea flow. You can also submit your thoughts in writing. We encourage our younger families to join in this important process for the future of our church.
- Contact Pastor Bill at pastorflcstp@gmail.com, Council President, Bill Kautt at wjk111@hickorytech.net or the church office 507 934-3060 or flcstpoffice@gmail.com
- **Small Group Meeting for our Youth** will be held on February 28th at 1pm. We are still looking for youth to add to this discussion! Contact Calleigh (cc.flcstp@gmail.com) to get signed up.

Meals on Wheels - St Peter: Our local Meals on Wheels is looking for two (2) volunteers to deliver meals for the month of March. If you can lend a hand please contact Harold Anderson at 934-8850.

Minnesota Foodshare March Campaign: The St. Peter Area Foodshelf (SPAF) is once again participating in the MN Foodshare March campaign. Donations during the month of March earn SPAF purchasing credits at Second Harvest in St. Paul which can be used throughout the year. First Lutheran members have made generous donations over the years to the March campaign and we need to continue to support this worthy cause. Please support the food shelf with your donations of food or money. Click on this link [St. Peter Food Shelf](#) to see what items are needed. There is also a yellow donate button on the website for financial contributions .

Prayer Concerns: We are called to remember John Holte, Tom Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Mark Roemhildt, Marietta Keenan, Shawn Serrano, and one another in prayer. We lift-up prayers of healing for all others in our personal prayers this week. We also pray for the families of Jim & Karen Wendroth (the passing of their daughter/step-daughter), Charles Hendrickson, Mort & Dorothy Eliason, Vickie Seeck (mother of Bill & Cheryl Kautt's daughter-in-law Catherine), Paul Baumgartner, and Marie Benson, as they mourn the loss of loved ones