

Full to the Brim } *Even in the desert*

March 6, 2022 + First Sunday in Lent

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.

You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Gathering in God's Presence

To maintain a worshipful atmosphere, today's musicians kindly ask you to hold applause until after the postlude.

Prelude — "Laetatus Sum"

Johann Michael Haydn
Midland University Choir

For I rejoiced with those who said unto me "Now let us go into the house of the Lord."

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 326

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray.

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power— **teach us a new way.**

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth— **teach us a new way.**

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control— **teach us a new way.**

Teach us to live as you live. **Teach us to love as you love.**

Holy One, **we confess that we have wandered far from you:**

we have not trusted your promises,

we have ignored your prophets in our own day,

we have squandered our inheritance of grace,

we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you.

Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love,

and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. Hear and believe this good news: in ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **God's love is overflowing. Thanks be to God, amen.**

***Kyrie** — pg. 156, front of hymnal, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting Five

***Lenten Litany**

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

Jesus went into the city to heal.

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

There is nowhere we can go
that God does not walk with us.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship Holy God.

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God of the wilderness places in our lives, it can be hard to hear you in the desert. It can be hard to hear you in the city, in the midst of our calendar reminders and notification alerts. It can be hard to hear you, so we ask: make everything quiet. Pause the chaos. Still the rushing. Ease our racing thoughts. Give us ears to hear your Word for us today which promises that even in the desert you are full to the brim.

We are listening. We ache for your good news. In Jesus' name, gratefully we pray, **amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Blessed are those whose way is wholesome, and who walk in the way of the Lord.
-from Psalm 119

A Reading from the Epistles — Romans 10:8b-13

8b“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

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

“Glory and Praise”



***Gospel** — Luke 4:1-13

The Gospel of Luke, the 4th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” 4Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

5Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” 8Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

9Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ 11and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

12Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn — from *All Creation Sings*

“As Your Spirit in the Desert”

Led by the Midland University Choir; Moriah Jensen (GAC), oboe

Setting by Michael D. Costello

Choir 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.

Assembly



Choir As your fire and cloudy pillar
Israel's tribes to Canaan led,
May your Presence be our comfort,
May your manna be our bread.

Assembly



Choir Though wild beasts may lurk in the shadow,
And dire thirst may sear and sting.
You have promised living waters
Waiting for us at the spring.

Assembly



Choir Through the narrow gate now draw us,
Past all empires' pull and strife,
Where beyond our fear and clinging
Stands the threshold of new life.

Assembly



Choir 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.

Assembly



*Affirmation of Faith — 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 power of 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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Call on us to protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of the people in Ukraine, that a peaceful and just resolution may be realized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. We lift up doctors and caregivers, and we offer prayers for those who are sick, experiencing mental illness, or contending with addiction. We give thanks for the lives and witnesses of those who have died. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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

Music at the Offering

“Y'Susum Midbar” (sung in Hebrew)

Setting by Alice Parker
Midland University Choir

The arid desert shall be glad.

The wilderness shall rejoice and blossom like a rose.

For waters shall burst in the desert, streams in the wilderness.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 325

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Choral Benediction — “You Do Not Walk Alone”

Setting by Elaine Hagenburg
Midland University Choir

*May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.*

When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.

May you always remember when the shadows fall: You do not walk alone.

-Traditional Irish Blessing

*Blessing & Dismissal

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace, full to the brim. **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude — “I’ll Be On My Way”

Setting by Shawn Kirchner
Midland University Choir

I'll be on my way.

I'll have laid my frown and all my burdens down,

I'll be puttin' on my crown, I'll be on my way.

Acknowledgements

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Words for Worship (Lenten Litany, Prayer of the Day, Confession and Forgiveness, Communion prayers and invitation, Benediction) Adapted from “Full to the Brim” by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | www.sanctifiedart.org

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Musicians: Midland University Choir; Moriah Jensen

Announcements

- We give special thanks to the Midland University Choir, under the direction of Joel Johnston, for joining us this morning and sharing the gift of music with us to enhance our worship! Located in Fremont, Nebraska, Midland is a private, Lutheran university associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- You are invited to our Lenten midweek worship services, which are Wednesdays at 7:00 for the next five weeks. Many of our youth will be involved in the leadership for these services!
- Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying companion churches in Eastern Europe to respond to the crisis in Ukraine. To support this response, you can make a donation <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glen Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Gloria Kane, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Martin Larson, and Urusla McRostie.
- We Pray for the family of Dick Kennedy, father of David Kennedy, who passed away last Saturday.
- We pray for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.