

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, February 21, 2021: First Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Welcoming & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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.

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 us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 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.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress" #503

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in the battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4. God's Words forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it.
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

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Word

Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God 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, O Lord, **I lift up my soul.**

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, **nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; **rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.**

Show me your ways, O Lord, **and teach me your paths.**

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.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**

Remember 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.**

You are gracious and upright, O Lord; **therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice **and teach the lowly your way.**

All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness **to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a

proclamation to the spirits in prison,²⁰ 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.²¹ 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,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15 (response after announcement of Gospel: **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,¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Message

Hymn: “The Church’s Song Will Carry on Throughout This Season of Our Grief”

1. The church’s song will carry on throughout this season of our grief.
The hymnody we hold so dear still brings our lonely hearts relief.
The songs that teach us of our faith may seem like distant melodies;
yet if we listen with our hearts, God sings to us a song of peace.
2. We’d like to make a joyful noise like Miriam sang beside the sea.
We’d like to join the heav’nly host in hymns of joy and mystery;
but in the face of constant strife sometimes we lose our will to sing;
yet e’en with voices soft and low, God heals our pain and sets us free.
3. When isolation wears us down; when forced to worship from our homes;
God offers each of us a choice: will fear consume, or will we grow?
For all the times we’ve felt alone; for plans and dreams that may have died;
there still remains inside of us a song that beckons us to life.
4. The hope of Christ is this, my friends: that even in our unbelief
within the darkness shines a light aglow with possibility.
So let us dream of better days where truth and justice will prevail;
when all shall know the heart of God, whose song of love will never fail.
5. There is a day ahead of us when we will gather once again.
We’ll hear the Word, we’ll bow in prayer, and raise our voices in a hymn.
The pain and suffering of the past we’ll lay down at the cross of Christ
while singing hymns of praise to God, who brings us all from death to life.

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 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.

Prayers

Sharing the Peace

Offering/Offertory *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

Music: J.A. Freylinghausen. Public Domain.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion & Post Communion Blessing

Sending

Hymn: *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" #325*

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Remember in your prayers

Al Watson, Gene Recibe, Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those working in our hospitals and care centers, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.