

**First Sunday in Lent** (on-line)  
**February 21, 2021**  
**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Pr. Blessed by the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**All Amen**

Pr. God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pr. Fountain of living water,

**All. 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.**

Pr. 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.

**Opening Hymn: "Lord Keep Us Steadfast" ELW 517**

## Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

### Greeting

Pr. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All Amen**

### Prayer of the Day

Pr 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.**

# Kyrie

Leader  
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
word, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have  
Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.  
mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen  
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## 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.”

## Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Asst To you, O Lord,

**I lift up my soul.**

Asst My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

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

**All rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.**

Asst Show me your ways, O Lord,

**and teach me your paths. R**

Asst 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.**

Asst Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

**for they are from everlasting.**

Asst 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.**

Asst You are gracious and upright, O Lord;

**All therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

Asst You lead the lowly in justice

**All and teach the lowly your way.**

Asst All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness

**All to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## Gospel Acclamation “Speak O Lord”

### Verse 2

Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

### Verse 3

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

CCLI Song # 4615235

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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## **Gospel: Mark 1:9-15**

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."

## **Sermon**

### **Sermon Hymn " And Can It Be" CCLI 25280**

#### *Verse 1*

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood  
Died He for me who caused His pain  
For me who Him to death pursued  
Amazing love how can it be  
That Thou my God shouldst die for me  
Amazing love how can it be  
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

#### *Verse 2*

'Tis mystery all th'Immortal dies  
Who can explore His strange design  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine  
'Tis mercy all let earth adore  
Let angel minds inquire no more  
'Tis mercy all let earth adore  
Let angel minds inquire no more

*Verse 3*

He left His Father's throne above  
So free so infinite His grace  
Emptied Himself of all but love  
And bled for Adam's helpless race  
'Tis mercy all immense and free  
For O my God it found out me  
'Tis mercy all immense and free  
For O my God it found out me

*Verse 4*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray  
I woke the dungeon flamed with light  
My chains fell off my heart was free  
I rose went forth and followed Thee  
My chains fell off my heart was free  
I rose went forth and followed Thee

*Verse 5*

No condemnation now I dread  
Jesus and all in Him is mine  
Alive in Him my living Head  
And clothed in righteousness divine  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne  
And claim the crown through Christ my own  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne  
And claim the crown through Christ my own

CCLI Song # 25280

Charles Wesley | Thomas Campbell

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## 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

On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, responding to each petition with words echoing today's psalm, "**In you we put our trust.**"

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O righteous God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Remembering Deaconess Elizabeth Fedde, we pray for all deacons and deaconesses, that they serve those in need with constancy and joy. Empower our congregation's ministries of care, and provide the funds needed for service.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O generous God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O creative God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan and stem the might of tyrants the world over.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O sovereign God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O warm-hearted God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: . . . We pray for all who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you. Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O benevolent God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts.

*A longer period of silence.*

Receive our prayers, O tender and mighty God:

**In you we put our trust.**

We praise you for the Christians of time past, especially Polycarp and all the martyrs who died in their witness to you. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers, O splendid God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Thanksgiving for the Word: Lent**

Holy God,  
our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,  
by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs,  
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.  
For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.  
We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert,

calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness,  
and walking with us into newness of life.  
For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.  
We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,  
that strengthened by your Word,  
we may care for others and for the world you made,  
and work for justice and peace for all.  
For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.  
We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,  
Holy God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## **Blessing**

Pr 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  $\text{†}$ ,  
strengthen you on your journey, and equip you to serve a world in need,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**All Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Asst Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
Be of good courage;  
Hold fast to that which is good;  
Render to no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak;  
Help the afflicted; honor all people;  
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me” ELW325**

# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

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