

Sunday, February 18, 2018
First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Mueller

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS **Kneel or sit as you are able*

P Merciful God,

G you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

**We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.**

**We fail in love, neglect justice,
and ignore your truth.**

Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.

Create in us clean hearts

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

P Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.

**Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.**

G Amen!

***GATHERING SONG**

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

ELW 618

**Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,**

land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

***GREETING**

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

C **And also with you.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“Kyrie”

ELW 157

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

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

P For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

P For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, and defend us, O God.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Holy God, heavenly Father,*

C **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!**

ANTHEM

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

Walter Pelz

Chancel Choir
Jim Bunge, violin

FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

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.”

Reflection

This text is the covenant made with Noah and all his descendants, and with all the animals of the earth. Remember what a covenant is: It is an unconditional, eternal promise made by God. Other covenants in the Old Testament are the covenant with Abram (see Genesis 15 and 17) the covenant God made with the people of Israel (see Exodus 24), and the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7). What did God promise to Noah and his descendants and all the animals of the earth? (verse 11) Who is included in this promise who is living now? (That's right—we are and all people of the earth, and all the animals!) What is the sign of the covenant? (verses 12-17) Do you think of this promise of God when you see a rainbow? (Maybe you will from now on!) Does this covenant in some way limit God's actions? Think of covenants, or promises, that you have made—to your spouse in marriage, to your children in baptism? (If you don't remember those promises, see the service of Marriage in the hymnal on p. 286, and the Liturgy for Holy Baptism, especially p. 228.) What does God's commitment to us mean for our treatment of all people, including our enemies? What does God's covenant with the animals mean for our response to the environment of the earth?

PSALM 25:1-10

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,**

and teach | me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O

LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

Reflection

The psalmist calls on God to remember the promises the Lord has made. What does the psalmist ask? (verses 1-3) Do we have a responsibility to God as a result of God's covenant with us? (verses 3 and 4) What do we receive from God as a result of God's covenant with us? (verses 5-6) What do we ask God to forget? (verse 7) Do you think God forgets our sins? What do you think of when you think of living in relationship with God, according to God's promises?

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

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.

Reflection

What does the water of baptism remind us of, according to this text? (verses 21-22) Did Christ suffer only for the sins of the righteous? (verses 18-20) By whose action are we rescued from the results of our sins? What does the covenant with Noah mean for our faith?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

pg. 189

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL**

Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

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."

Reflection

Who baptized Jesus? (verse 9) What was John's baptism about? (see Mark 1:4) What happened at Jesus' baptism? (verses 10-11) Was that unusual? Does anything like this happen in our baptism? What does the Spirit of God do immediately (one of Mark's favorite words) after Jesus was baptized? (verse 12) How long was Jesus there? (verse 13) Who was with him? If you compare this story of Jesus baptism and time in the wilderness with the stories from Matthew and Luke (see Matthew 4 and Luke 4), Mark does not have all the details. But the same characters are there—Satan, the wild beasts, and the angels. As I've thought of this story, I've reflected that forty days is a long time to be in the wilderness. (Have you ever been in the wilderness for even a few hours?) What do you think the beasts were doing there? Remember that they are creatures with whom God (the Father of Jesus) made a covenant. This is a very ambiguous text, and it has lots of symbolism. But obviously it was part of the preparation Jesus went through for his ministry. Let your imagination carry you into the wilderness with Jesus. Is it frightening? Comforting? What kinds of wilderness have you experienced in your life of faith? As we reflect on this text, we remember that whatever wilderness we find ourselves in, we are not there alone, because Jesus is with us.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"40 Days of Preparation"

Rev. Roger Lenander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325

**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.**

**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.

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.

***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!

***PRAYER SONG**

"Change My Heart, O God"

ELW 801

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill *especially* Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. As they receive the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*
- G** **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Merciful God,*

C **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

C **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**

P *Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

***BLESSING**

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

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Compassionate God,*

C **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten
pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our
prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.*

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you \neq peace.*

☞ Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"Forever"

**Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise**

**With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise**

Refrain

**Sing praise sing praise
Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever**

**From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise *Refrain***