

**The First Sunday in Lent  
February 21, 2021**



Welcome to the season of Lent—a time of self-reflection, prayer and worship on the road to Easter!

To join us live for Sunday School via Zoom (all ages) at 9:00 a.m., please click on the link below (or copy and paste the address into your web browser), and enter the password when prompted. To join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. and Coffee Hour at 11:00 a.m., stay on after Sunday School, or use the same link.

<https://zoom.us/j/671347885?pwd=OUN1WVpMbXpwS1hERkllaHBScTlpZz09>

Meeting ID: 671 347 885  
Password: PrayEph618

You can also join our worship by phone if you do not have computer access. If you know someone who might benefit from calling in and listening to our worship service in this way, or if you yourself would rather join us by phone, please share the following information with them. call in to join our worship by phone (long distance):

- 1) Dial 1-253-215-8782, and
- 2) Enter the Meeting Number/Pin Number and Password as prompted:  
Meeting/Pin Number: 671 347 885  
Password: 688832

Please print a copy of the worship service below so that you can better participate. For this service, we also invite you to place on your “altar table” some **bread and wine**—as we prepare to celebrate Holy Communion together, yet apart.

***Our Worship Service***

Prelude: “*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*” (Pelz) Susan Cicirello

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Welcome  
Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

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.*

Fountain of living water,  
**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.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
and by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Come follow the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

Gathering Song: "Thy Holy Wings" (ELW – Red Hymnal #613)

**Thy holy wings, O Savior,**  
**spread gently over me,**  
**and let me rest securely**  
**through good and ill in thee.**  
**Oh, be my strength and portion,**  
**my rock and hiding place,**  
**and let my ev'ry moment**  
**be lived within thy grace.**

**Oh, let me nestle near thee,**  
**within thy downy breast**  
**where I will find sweet comfort**  
**and peace within thy nest.**  
**Oh, close thy wings around me**  
**and keep me safely there,**  
**for I am but a newborn**  
**and need thy tender care.**

**Oh, wash me in the waters**  
**of Noah's cleansing flood.**  
**Give me a willing spirit,**  
**a heart both clean and good.**  
**Oh, take into thy keeping**  
**thy children great and small,**  
**and while we sweetly slumber,**  
**enfold us one and all.**

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## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.**

Let us pray...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 (from *Service of the Word*, ELW – Red Hymnal P. 213)



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

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## Children's Message

### **Word**

First Lesson: *Genesis 9:8-17*

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God 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.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and 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. <sup>11</sup>I 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.” <sup>12</sup>God 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: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>When 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.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

*The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: *Mark 1:9-15*

*The holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter./Glory to you, O Lord.*

*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.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*” (ELW – Red Hymnal #326)

**Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.**

**Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.**

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## Prayers of the Church

*(During this time of silence, we invite you to share any additional prayer concerns with each other using the Chat box. In our prayers, there will be a pause when you can name aloud these others for whom you wish to pray.)*

*Those for whom we are already praying this morning include: Jean Lilly, Lynn McCracken, Michelle Rana, Shaundra Rana, Betty Buerger, Faith Kelleigh, Lloyd Talbert, Don Kammerzell, and Kevin Kurth.*

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

O Lord, 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, especially those who suffer the effects of climate change. 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, especially as we bring before you today: Jean, Lynn, Michelle, Shaundra, Betty, Faith, Lloyd, Don, Kevin, and all for whom we pray...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.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, including those precious ones to us to whom we say Godspeed this day.

**Amen.**

*A Service of Farewell and Godspeed for April and Scott Moore*

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share peace within your household, via the chat feature on Zoom or by texting people with whom you would like to share the peace.*

## The Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

*A reminder that even though we might not be gathering together in-person at our church facility because of COVID-19, our ministry and mission still go on; and your generosity is so appreciated. You can give on-line through Realm or via our webpage, or for those who would prefer, keep mailing your offering envelopes into the church office:*

*Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
4500 Wadsworth Blvd.  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033*

## Meal

*(Prepare your Bread and Wine)*

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Come Lord Jesus, be the host;  
Father Son and Holy Ghost.  
Let these gifts to us be blest;  
And feed the church, each hungry guest. Amen.**

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion Around the Home Table

Pastor: *The body of Christ, given for you...  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*(You are invited to share the bread and wine with the people in your home (or alone, as the case may be—though together on Zoom), using the same words.)*

Special Music: *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"* (Peterson) Susan Cicirello

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Sending Song: *"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"* (ELW – Red Hymnal #319; LBW – Green Hymnal #99)

*(Verses 1-3)*

**O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust**

