

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church  
First Sunday of Lent  
February 21, 2021  
Service of Holy Communion**

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**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the 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 for reflection and self-examination)*

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: 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.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**

*"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church:"*

#321

1. **Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.**
2. **So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living in your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.**
3. **If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.**

**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.**

**LENT LITANY**

Holy and gracious God, provider of all our needs,

**we seek refuge in Your Holy presence,  
for we are weary, weak and empty.**

In our emptiness, we wonder about the future.

**Fill us with faith so that we might move mountains.**

Uplift us, Lord, when we fall by the wayside.

**Fill our emptiness with Your strength,  
so that we might rise again.**

Draw near to us. Ease our struggles and worries.

**Fill us with hope so that we might be free of doubt and fear.**

Strengthen our relationships with you and with one another.

**Fill us with love for you and for all,  
so that we might be the body of Christ in the world.**

Let our emptiness open the way for your presence.

**Fill us with your Holy Spirit.**

**Fill us with faith, strength, hope and love.**

Lord, in your mercy,

**grant us peace. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

**WORD****CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****FIRST READING**

Genesis 9:8-17

*Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 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. 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." 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: I have*

*set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 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. 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.” 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.**

### **PSALM 25:1-10**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

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

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,  
and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 3:18-22

*For 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 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. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.*

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

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."*

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"*

#769

1. **If you but trust in God to guide you  
with gentle hand through all your ways,  
you'll find that God is there beside you  
when crosses come, in trying days.  
Trust then in God's unchanging love;  
build on the rock that will not move.**
2. **What gain is there in anxious weeping,  
in helpless anger and distress?  
If you are in your Savior's keeping,  
in sorrow will he love you less?  
For Christ who took for you a cross  
will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.**
3. **The Lord our restless hearts is holding,  
in peace and quietness content.  
We rest in God's good will unfolding,  
what wisdom from on high has sent.  
God, who has chosen us by grace,  
knows very well the fears we face.**
4. **Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,  
offer your service faithfully.  
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,  
you'll find God's promise true to be.  
This is our confidence indeed:  
God never fails in time of need.**

## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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

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

*Petitions end:* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TEMPLE TALK: JOURNEY TO JERUSALUM

## MEAL

## GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

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.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER****LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

**SHARING OF COMMUNION****COMMUNION HYMN**

*"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"*

#777

1. **"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give. If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."  
Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**
2. **"Come to me, all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest. Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest."  
Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**
3. **"Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place. Come receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face."  
Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**
4. **"Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame. Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name."  
Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**

**TABLE BLESSING**

*At the conclusion: Amen*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the conclusion: Amen*

**SENDING****BENEDICTION**

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

**SENDING SONG**

*"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"*

#326

1. **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.**

2. **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.**
3. **Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands 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.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be filled with faith, strength, hope and love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE**