

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Sunday Worship Booklet  
The First Sunday in Lent  
February 21, 2021 A.D.**



**Introduction**

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

PR=Pastor Ryan  
L=Lector  
C=Congregation

**PRELUDE**

*Grazioso*

G. F. Telemann

**GATHERING HYMN** *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* **ELW #319**  
CONSOLATION

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*Silence for self-reflection and examination.*

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.

PR: Fountain of living water,

**C: 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. **C: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: 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.*

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 51:1-17**

**R:** *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C:** **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**C:** **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R**

L: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**C:** **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

L: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**C:** **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice. R**

L: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

**C:** **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**C:** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R**

L: Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**C:** **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

L: O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**C:** **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering. R**

L: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

**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.*

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* ELW #774

SHOWALTER

**HOLY GOSPEL: Saint 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.*

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection.*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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.**

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

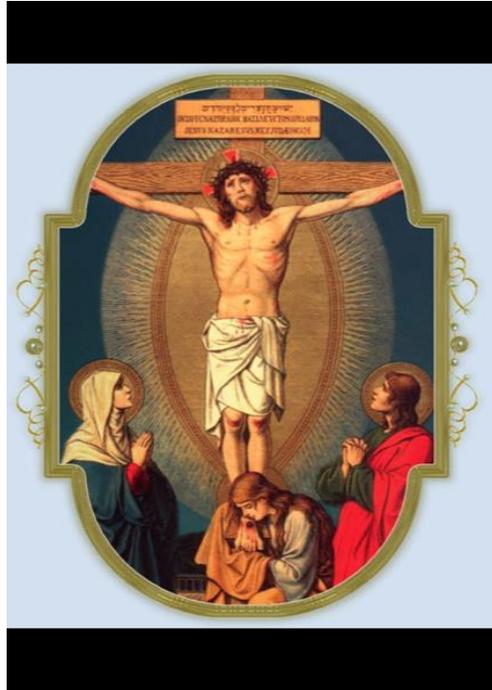
PR: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God. C: **Your mercy is great.**

PR: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**



### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

PR: O my Sweet Savior, Jesus Christ, you are my sovereign good, the fountain of all good. My God and my All. What a blessing it would be for me, could I at this moment possess you in my heart, and there render you my praise, and lay before you my necessities and share in the graces you bestow on those who really receive you.

O come to me dear Lord in Spirit and take full possession of my heart and of my soul. To you I give my memory that you may always dwell in my thoughts, my understanding, that it may ever be engaged in contemplating your love and goodness and my will, that you may direct it to the keeping of your holy law. To you I give my whole self. Oh my Jesus, make me to be ever yours. May the virtue of your divine sacrament increase my faith, fortify my hope, purify my charity and fill my heart with your love. Oh let me be yours and you mine from now and forever; grant that nothing in life or death may ever separate me from you anymore. **C: Amen.**

### **TAKING FAITH HOME**

## **BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

PR: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**      *O Jesus I Have Promised*    **ELW #810**      **MUNICH**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE**      *“Lo! Now is Our Accepted Day”*      setting by Thomas Tallis  
*“Lo! now is our accepted day, The time for purging sins away,  
The sins of thought, and deed, and word, That we have done against the Lord..”*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lector: Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.