

Lent 1, 2021, Order of Worship (February 21, 2021)

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship—Psalm 25:1-10 Can you put yourself in this psalm? Let the words of the author become *your* words as you practice trusting in God and paying attention to him.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame [when I pray this, I add “before you” here], nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but those who are treacherous without excuse will be put to shame. Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Confession and Forgiveness for Lent (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 100)

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. 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, and by the eternal mercy and power of God, your sins are forgiven. God remembers them no more! Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn *A Mighty Fortress* (public domain) LBW 229, ELW 504, HP 1573

*A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He beaks the cruel oppressor’s rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.*

The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Lent 1, page 2, service

Prayer of the 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, so 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.

A reading from Genesis, the 9th chapter (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. -- Notice that the word *covenant* is used 7 times. Pay attention to how committed God is to us!

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Word of God, word of life.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

The gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter (1:9-15), sermon (page 5)

Sermon Hymn ***Lord, Keep Us Steadfast*** (public domain) LBW 230, ELW 517, HP 1574

***Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to nought all he has done.***

***O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.***

Lent 1, page 3, service

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2020, p. 111)

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

In Jesus your kingdom has come near to us in every time and place. 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 thing. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Teach us to be good stewards of all things, and protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. 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. 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.**

Lord of Resurrection, we give thanks for the covenant you made with us in the waters of baptism, and for those who have died in the Lord. Bestow your comfort on all who grieve for lost ones. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lent 1, page 4, service

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Celebration of Holy Communion with Paige and Paxton

Presentation of 5th graders
Words of Institution
The Lord's Prayer (Our Father, who art in heaven)
Receiving the Lord's Supper
Communion Blessing

Benediction:

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 that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

Sending Song ***Lord of Our Life*** (public domain) LBW 366, ELW 766, HP 1737
Sing to LBW 393, ELW 665, *Rise, Shine, You People*

***Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and hope of every nation:
Hear and receive your Church's supplication,
Lord God Almighty.***

***Lord, you can help when earthly armor fails us;
Lord, you can save when deadly sin assails us;
Lord, you protect when any evil ails us,
Grant us your peace, Lord.***

Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!