First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021



Christ in the Wildnerness

Kramskoĭ, Ivan Nikolaevich, 1837-1887, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54213 [retrieved February 15, 2021]. Original source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/duckmarx/402675938/.

This document is for use only during remote worship by members and friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville, NC, and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any fashion.

Liturgical texts and music from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #A717373. Hymn reproduced by permission under onelicense.net license# 86951

Scripture quotations are from Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Welcome and Worship Announcements

Invocation

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

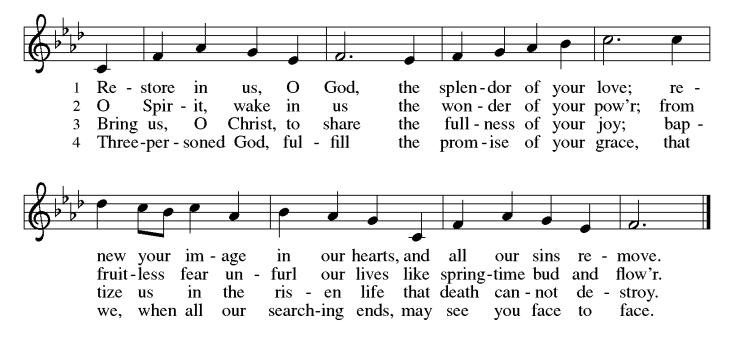
Silence for reflection

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



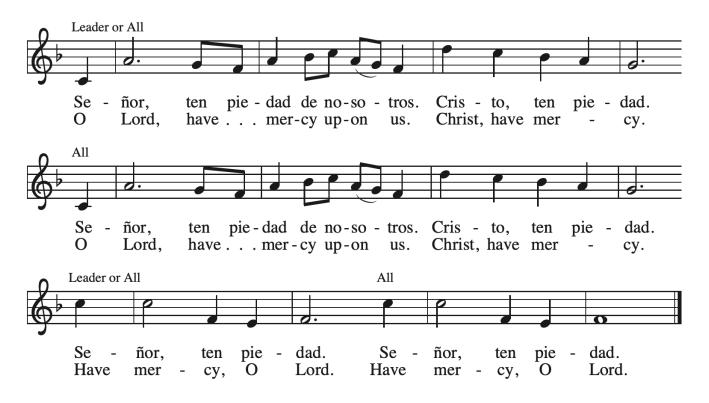


Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.**





Prayer of the Day

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**

First Reading

Genesis 9: 8-17

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."

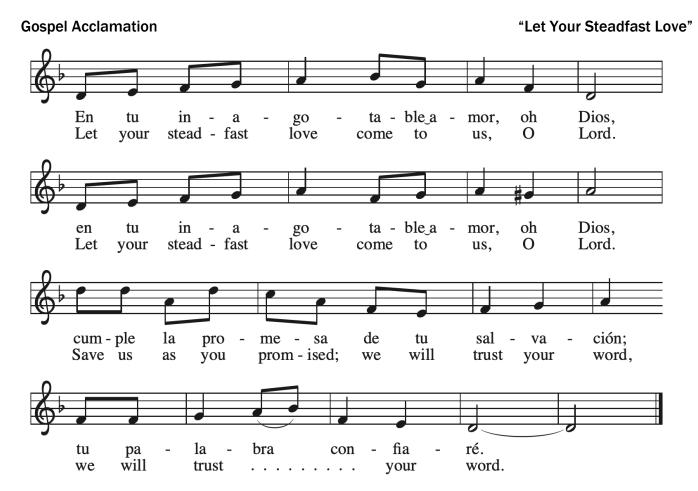
Psalm 25: 1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me. ²Let none who look to you be | put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes. ³Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths. ⁴Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long. ⁵Remember, O LORD, your compa- | ssion and love, for they are from | everlasting. ⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions; remember me according to your love, and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD. ⁷Gracious and upright | is the LORD; teaching sinners | in the way. ⁸The LORD guides the humble in | doing right and teaches God's way | to the lowly. ⁹All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness to those who keep God's cove- | nant and testimonies.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

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.



Gospel

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."

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

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon



Hymn of the Day

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"



Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. **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 into hell. 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

Peace

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life. For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God. We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all. For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

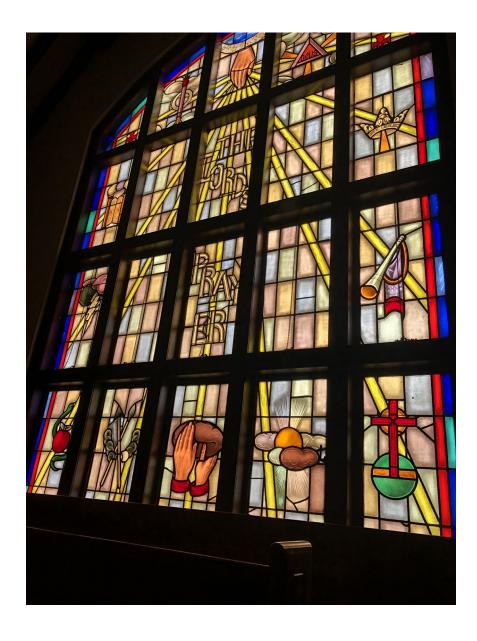
Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing, Holy God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever. Amen.



Sending Hymn



Text: African American spiritual Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Announcements and Dismissal

Go in peace , share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**