



Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.
First Sunday in Lent
Promise of Relationship

GATHERING

WELCOME

We gather in the Triune name of God: who gives us their Word,
whose promise makes us one people, who seals and delivers us.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In this season of Lent, we hear the stories of how God has formed us
out of dust and ash and promises into God's own people.
But time and again our commitment crumbles, and we are scattered by sin.
Beloved, let us return to God, confessing what tears us apart
so that God can put us back together.

A brief silence.

God, we confess: we have sinned.

**We have turned away from you,
away from one another, into ourselves.**

**We have allowed our love of you
to be supplanted by the fear of other things:
death, suffering, weakness, want.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.
Help us. Promise us that even this brokenness can be made well.**

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.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Rainbow God: In the story of the flood we see you turn from black-and-white judgment to the many-hued possibilities between you and your creation.

Turn us too, O God. Disarm us through your flowing grace. Submerge us in your saving love. Let our actions drip the gentle rain of your mercy, so that at the last we might hear you name us your people, with whom you are well-pleased.

Amen.

WORD

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.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹I 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.”

¹²God 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: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I 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.

¹⁶When 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.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL – Mark 1:9-15

The gospel according to Mark.
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.

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

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

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and 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

Rev. Josh Ebener

Pastor at St. Andrew, West Chicago & Latinx Ministry Coordinator for MetroChicago Synod

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each prayer with the words, "**Your mercy is great.**"

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night. We rest securely in you, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

We practice two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition: baptism and holy communion. These are celebrated in community, in public worship, where we can all participate and remember together: God is known for using ordinary earthly things (like water, bread, and wine) to make extraordinary promises (like forgiveness, salvation, healing and new life) to creation.

Today is a good reminder that this simple meal nourishes God's community across time and space - this is why we call it communion. We would rather be with you in person for the sacrament today, but we trust Jesus to show up beyond our limitations, to meet us in this separation with a Spirit that unites, to feed us with the bread of life who is our source and strength.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

We don't serve ourselves communion because there's something holy about that promise coming from outside our own bodies, a perfect declaration from God spoken to us by our neighbor: This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you. If you are gathered with others from your household, speak these words aloud when you serve each other. If you do not have someone in the room with you while you receive the sacrament, hear my voice as the external word of grace and invitation.

+ + *Receive the Meal* + +

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

We pause for prayer and reflection.

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

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.



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Our Mission:

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries, meet with one of our pastors, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to call or email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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***See you next week for worship livestream
at 5pm on Saturday and 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday!***
***We continue sharing in communion. Please call/email the church
office if you need elements brought to you.***

