



Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.
Fifth Sunday in Lent -- The Promise of Purpose

GATHERING

OPENING LITANY

God of all people and the whole of creation,
make us into who you have created us to be.

Make us your hands, your feet, your eyes, your lips,
your body in the world.

Spirit of Peace, reconcile us,
connect us to yourself, to each other.

You are the source of our healing and hope,
for if one is hurt, all of us are hurt.

Clothe us, your body in the world,
with your love, mercy and grace. Amen.

COMMUNAL CONFESSIONS

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.

Joined with ELCA congregations lamenting the harassment of Asian siblings
around the world, let us return to God, confessing what tears us apart so that God
can put us back together.

A brief silence.

Asian siblings are hurting. How do we, the church, hear their painful cry, and act together in solidarity? We pray ...

Lord, have mercy.

Branded as the model minority, Asians are not expected to speak up; yet they cry for justice. Are they seen and heard? We pray ...

Lord, have mercy.

Asians are feared as a community. With complex cultures and languages, this uniqueness is generally omitted and overgeneralized by society's majority. How can we, the church, offer our curiosity and respect when we encounter a multitude of gifts in diversity and uniqueness? We pray ...

Lord, have mercy.

Asian children are called many names, most recently "coronavirus," or yelled at to "go home." When we, the church, ask, "Who is our neighbor?," how can we truly mean it in welcoming words and actions? We pray ...

Lord, have mercy.

Asians are used by the mainstream dominant culture to shame and put a wedge against other communities of color. Claiming our calling that all are created in God's image, how can we stand in solidarity with those hurting? We pray ...

Lord, have mercy.

God's forgiveness is greater than any hurt and pain of the body. For Asian theologies, forgiveness is an invitation to examine and reexamine what constitutes our identity, not only our individual identity but, most especially, our communal identity. May God's forgiveness invite us all to face who we are truly as members of the body of Christ. May this rich promise embrace us all, taking away the pain of our battered body.

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... O God of dying and rising seeds, plant in our hearts the seed of belonging: a promise that you shall be our God, and we will be your people. Whenever we fall short, renew that tender planting, so that one day, at the last, its questing roots will have indelibly traced your name -- your law -- your Love -- in the least of us to the greatest.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL – John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Robert Biekman

MetroChicago Synod Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop

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

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.

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. Dwell in God's promises.

Thanks be to God.

Join us on ZOOM for Lenten midweek services, Wednesdays at 7pm. See you next week for worship at 5pm on Saturday and livestream at 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday!

Plus... Celebrate Palm Sunday (March 28th) & Easter (April 4th) at 10:00am on the church lawn!!



5252 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL 60646
www.edgebrooklutheran.org
Office Phone: 773-763-2121 Fax: 773-647-1752
Email: office@edgebrooklutheran.org

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 our pastor, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to call or
email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

Reverend Christina Klein	pastorchristina@edgebrooklutheran.org	Pastor
Pat Godek	office@edgebrooklutheran.org	Office Manager
David Bugher		Contemporary Worship Music Leader
Walt Horn		Traditional Worship Music Leader
Will Santiago		Custodian

From sundaysandseasons.com. © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Printed by
permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS000662
Used by permission CCLI License #11452969 Used by permission OneLicense.net A-704776.
Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day adapted from Barn Geese Worship:
www.barngeeseworship.com . Used under a Creative Commons License (CC-BY-NC 4.0).
Gathering resources written by the Rev. Teresita Valeriano on behalf of the Association of
Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA, adapted by Rev. Christina Klein