

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 8:45am  
Fifth Sunday in Lent -- The Promise of Purpose



## **GATHERING**

### **VOCAL PRELUDE**

*Unless a Grain of Wheat*

Bernadette Farrell

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,  
It remains but a single grain with no life.  
If we died with him, then we shall live with him;  
If we hold firm, we shall reign with him. Unless a grain...  
Make your home in me as I make mine in you;  
Those who remain in me bear much fruit. Unless a grain...*

### **WELCOME**

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

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. We, the church, have listened to their cries for justice  
and their laments to be seen and heard, but are slow to act in solidarity.

We have neglected the uniqueness of complex cultures and languages to  
accommodate our own comfort, rather than respect the diversity in God's creation.

We have called children names that are not their own, and not welcomed the  
neighbor with our words and actions.

We have allowed shame to put a wedge against communities of color instead of  
claiming our calling that all are created in God's image.

Rising to stand with those who are hurting, we pray ...  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## KYRIE

S120 – Marty Haugen

In peace,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,



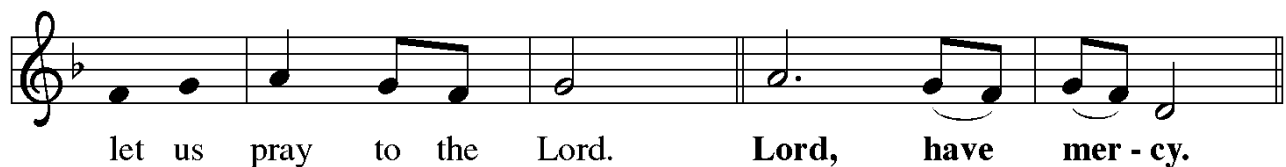
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,

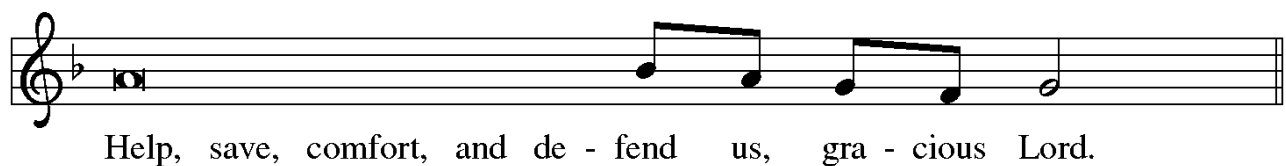


let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

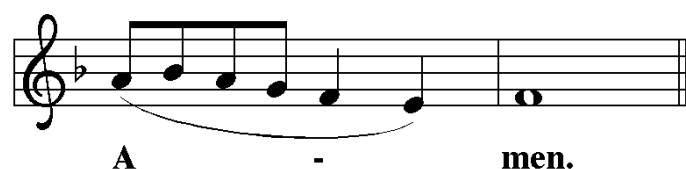
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN**     *Restore in Us, O God*     **ELW 328**



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

**GREETING**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### 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.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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.

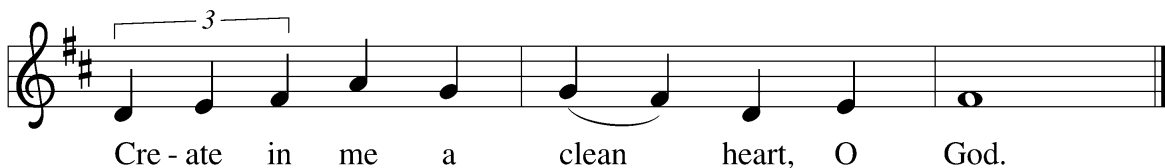
Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 51:1-12

*The refrain is sung by the cantor, then by ALL;  
The pairs of verses are sung responsively using the psalm tone.*

##### Refrain



##### Psalm Tone



<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

- <sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- <sup>4</sup>**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. *Refrain***
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. *Refrain***
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. *Refrain***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S125 – Marty Haugen



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

## **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.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

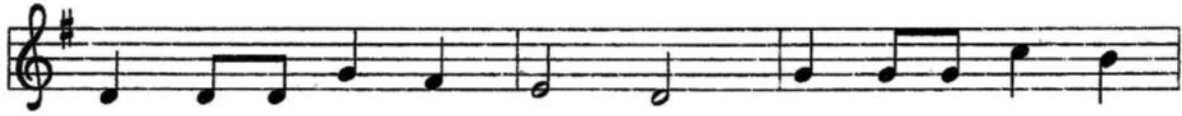
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

***Rev. Robin K. Brown***

*Director of Congregational Mission Funding for the ELCA*





1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

**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.*

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

... Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### 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.**

+ + + *Receive the Meal* + + +

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

*We pause for prayer and reflection, and to give time to commune those gathered  
with others in the household.*

## 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.**

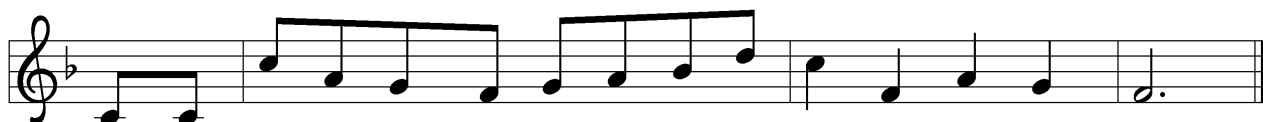
## SENDING HYMN      *As the Sun with Longer Journey*      *ELW 329*



- 1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,
- 2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,
- 3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - diance warms the seed be - neath the earth,  
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it— Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.  
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.  
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Dwell in God's promise.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

J.S. Bach

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

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



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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

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Gathering resources written by the Rev. Teresita Valeriano on behalf of the Association of  
Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA, adapted by Rev. Christina Klein