

First Sunday in Lent  
February 21, 2021  
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC

Preservice music/welcome/announcements

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.

Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

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, the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

### GATHERING

Gathering Hymn #319 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

## Greeting and Kyrie

The grace of our Brother, Jesus, the love of God our heavenly parent, and the presence of the Holy Breath, be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.**

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.**

## Prayer of the Day

Eternal and holy One, in the waters of the flood you save 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 Brother, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*Response to the readings: "Thanks be to God"*

### First Lesson                      Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>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: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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." <sup>17</sup>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."                      *The word of our God. Thanks be to God.*

### Second Lesson                      1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>For 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*The word of our God. Thanks be to God.*

Lenten verse

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

Holy Gospel                      Mark 1:9-15    **Glory to you, O Lord**

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

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

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."                      *The gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day            #697    "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

*Refrain*

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*
- 3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

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 to the dead.\* 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

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

*A brief silence is kept*

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. 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 creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction (*especially in our old growth forests, our salmon rivers, and the orcas and other creatures who live in our Salish Sea*). Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. 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 (*especially Ed and Gwen, Erika and Rikki, Merv and Marlene, Sharon and Phil, Nicholas and Linda, Terry and Ingrid, and all those whom we name before you now with our lips or in our hearts. . .Pause. . .*)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 for one another, especially those who live alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness, especially Karsten and Laila, Maggie and Michael and those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ, our companion and comforter in the wilderness. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace/Offering/Offertory      *A musical reflection is played while the table is set*

### **MEAL**

Offering Prayer

Faithful God, **you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.**

**Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## Eucharistic Prayer for Lent

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all those gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honour is yours, Eternal One, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

*The great thanksgiving concludes:*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. *The prayer is sung*

**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.**

Fraction      The gifts of God for you, the beloved children of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to the table

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

Distribution of the holy supper      *A musical reflection accompanies the sharing*

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 Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

Blessing

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbour.

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

Sending Song #321 “Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

- 1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

2 So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.

3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Dismissal      Go in peace. Serve the world by sharing the good news in all you do.  
**We will with the help of God.**

Postlude