

Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 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 #320 "The Glory of These Forty Days"

- 1 The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
 for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
 and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;
 and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.
- 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you.
 Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.

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

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of our God. Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson Romans 4:13-25

³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written,

"I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*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 8:31-38

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #322 "Oh, Love, How Deep", **vv. 1-4**

Oh, Love, How Deep



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

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

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Particularly do we pray for those countries in the world who cannot afford the cost of vaccines for their citizens, and for the difficult choices they have to make between the possibility of dying from the virus or from hunger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Restore the hope and health of all who are sick, disabled, discouraged or disappointed, dying or grieving, *especially Gwen and Ed, Erika and Rikki, Marlene and Merv, Sharon and Phil, Nicholas and Linda, Terry and Ingrid, Al and Tory, Randi and Pam, Dorothy and Michelle 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.**

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to the homeless and families and to women and children living in distress or fear, especially those seeking refuge in transition houses and shelters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of *Karsten and Laila, Maggie and Michael* and all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Christ our Lord. **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 #320 "Oh, Love, How Deep", v. 5-7

Oh, Love, How Deep



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
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Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

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

Postlude

For your edification and growth in trust while in the wilderness. Had I known of it last week, I would have ended my sermon with it. Nevertheless, it is too beautiful, powerful and relevant to refuse to use it this Sunday on nothing more than principle. In truth, since Lent is a journey, these reflections, words and images will fit anytime in this season.

Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved.

Beloved.

Beloved.

—Jan Richardson
from [*Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*](#)