

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 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.**

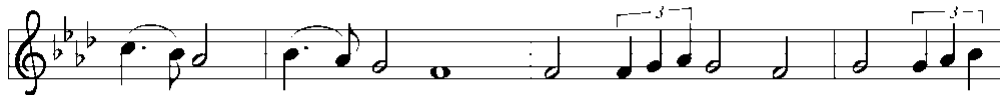
GATHERING

Gathering Hymn #327 "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

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

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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 Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

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.

Sequence Hymn #512 "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (Sing twice through)

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil."

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Holy Gospel

John 12:20-33

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 honour.

²⁷Now 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 our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #379 "Now The Green Blades Rises"

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen,
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

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

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Be with and strengthen our Bishops, Susan and Greg, and our synod's assistant, Kathy, our synod council, and Kimberly, our synod's receptionist. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires, pandemics and fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve; those who are in care and those who take care of them; those who are in hospital or recovering from surgery; those who are discouraged, depressed, disappointed and disheartened. . . particularly *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, Jan and Kathy, Dave and Josh, Sonja and Larry, and all whom we name now with our lips or in our hearts.* . . . Pause. . .) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you (*especially Thomas Cranmer*). With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. 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 #508 "As Rain from the Clouds"

- 1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.
 Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
 and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
 We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
 We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
 for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

- 2 As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
 on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.
 Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
 and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
 We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
 for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

- 2 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,
 awaking and warming and healing our land.
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
 and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
 we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
 We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
 for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the world by sharing the good news in all you do.

We will with the help of God.

Postlude