

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent**

Thought: *At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus is driven into the wilderness. Mark says that they are alone in the wilderness. Jesus was “among the wild animals.” Each of us lives out the Christian life periodically threatened by an assortment of “wild animals.” They can take many forms. Will we be tempted to believe in the power of the threatening, tempting forces against us, or will we put our fates in the hands of the one who came in and through the wilderness in order to save us?*

Prelude – Beneath the Cross of Jesus
(The Hastings College Choir)
https://youtu.be/qr7_i8HJ-Jo

Welcome

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Call to Worship

A: Help us to know your ways, O God. Teach us your paths.

C: Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

A: You are good and upright, O God. You instruct sinners in the way.

C: All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep your covenant.

Opening Music – O Word of God Incarnate
(Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Michigan)
<https://youtu.be/mRpN6E2Hjcs>

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

P: As we look into the wilderness, O God, we see your Son face-to-face with temptation. Watching him is far easier than facing temptation ourselves.

A time of silence and reflection

P: Jesus has taken our sins, after all; why should he not take our temptations as well?

C: We fail to see that we must tread the road of faith ourselves. Forgive us for leaving the hard work of faith to Jesus. Forgive us for all the times we have expected Jesus to stand in our place, dodging responsibility that is rightly ours. Show us anew how to follow Jesus to Jerusalem, transforming our reluctance into faithful discipleship.

P: We pray that under the mercy of him who died we might live, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lenten Response

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (Middlechurch)

<https://youtu.be/N8iJ9CIS03o>

Prayer of the Day (in part from Martin Luther)

A: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin.

C: 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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Genesis 9:8-17

The rainbow, sign of God's covenant

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

Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ **Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸ **Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Epistle reading – 1 Peter 3:18-22

Saved through water

¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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, ²² 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 the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Mark 1:9-15

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<https://youtu.be/l7buaIWxfHA>

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

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

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children of God

<https://youtu.be/coPmlb3CU6w>

Homily – “No Ifs Ands or Buts”

<https://youtu.be/qCdQaC4HJR4>

Music – “If You But Trust in God To Guide You”

(First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska)

<https://youtu.be/hOvU3xsUS5E>

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

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

A brief silence.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

Offering and Offertory Prayer

A: You, O Lord, are the author and giver of all good things.

C: Lead us into a more perfect gratitude, through which we may also become givers of good things. Make our Lenten disciplines ones of joy and sacrifice, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Lamb of God

(w/Lyrics – Catholic Mass Song)

<https://youtu.be/LcgpnvQPoaQ>

The Words of Institution

The 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Distribution

Communion Music – As the Grains of Wheat (Marty Haugen)

<https://youtu.be/GFK2LJIXXbY>

Post Communion Prayer

A: The time is fulfilled, O Christ.
God's kingdom has come near in this place -

C: - at this table.

A: Enrich us with this royal feast.

C: Strengthen us for our Lenten journey.

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Music – O Jesus, I Have Promised

<https://youtu.be/rC-2Ss9tg7I>

Dismissal

A: Strengthened by Jesus who walked in the wilderness.

C: We walk in our wilderness, strengthened to serve.

