

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

February 21, 2021

10:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism.

First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Sicilienne*

Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759-1824)
prerecorded by Byron Klimek, cello; Karen Sande, piano

WELCOME

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.

KYRIE

Assisting Minister

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assisting Minister

Petition..... let us pray.

For peace between nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the healing of creation, let us pray: **Kyrie...**
 For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and all who long for God, let us pray: **Kyrie...**
 For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, abandoned or afraid, let us pray: **Kyrie...**

Assisting Minister

Help, save, com-fort and de - fend us, O

All

God. A -

<i>To the Prayer of the Day</i>	<i>To the Evening Hymn of Praise</i>
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men. men.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *As Your Spirit in the Desert*



1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to
 2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to
 3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may
 4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's
 5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us



dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to
 Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your
 sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing
 pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the
 jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the



cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the
 man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the
 for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the
 thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the
 ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the



wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.
 wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.
 wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.
 wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.
 wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful One, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow and the waters of baptism through which we become heirs of your promises. May your angels minister to us in the wildernesses of our lives that we may be faithful covenant partners with you. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING *Genesis 9:8-17*

read by Nancy Hamre

⁸God 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.”

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING *1 Peter 3:18-22*

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

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL *Mark 1:9-15*

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

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

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

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and 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.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

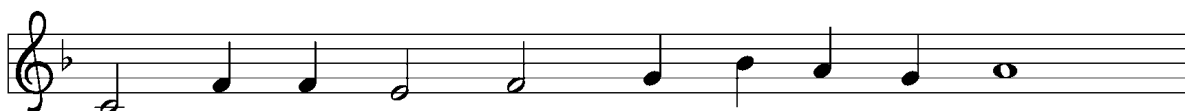
HYMN OF THE DAY #321 *Eternal Lord of Love*



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



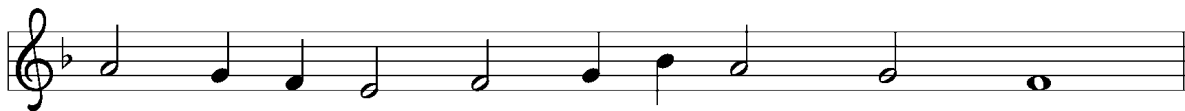
walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Boundless God, remind us:

WE ARE Created by an ever-present, loving God,
Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus
Equipped to be resilient amidst change,
Grounded in community,
Free to struggle, grow and expand,
Compelled to reach out in response,
Renewed in hope each day.

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us,
that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION

Joel Abenth, Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Our Father in Heaven*

German chorale *Vater unser im Himmelreich*,
setting by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Karen Sande, organ

OFFERING PRAYER

God's time is fulfilled and the reign of God has come near.
We are humbled by your generosity, we seek to respond by walking in your ways.
Receive these offerings that they may be used
to glorify you and serve those in need. Through Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

We return to the wilderness of Lent still thirsting to be together, still hungry for communion. Longing to return to this table, we remember that when the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they cried out to God and God sent manna. We know that in times of crisis, God feeds hungry people. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. This is bread for the journey. Before you eat it, think of the ways that God has fed you and the community over this last week. Think of how God has shown up in your life and in the lives of others. Take a moment to thank God for nourishing you. As you eat the bread, pray for those who don't have enough to eat, that God would feed them too and that we might be part of the way God answers those prayers.

MUSIC FROM TAIZE *Nothing Can Trouble*

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te_es - pan - te.
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na-da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te_es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we journey with Jesus to the cross, we pray:

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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #331 *As the Deer Runs to the River*



1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; created for beloved community of God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ*

setting by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

On you alone, Lord Jesus Christ, my hope on earth depends

MINISTERS

All People of First Lutheran Church

PASTOR

The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

PASTORAL INTERN

Logan McLean Strike

PROGRAM STAFF

Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

MUSICIANS

Liz Raduege, Aine Miller, Andy Frey, Doug Frey and Michael Fuchs,
singers; Byron Klimek, cello

VIDEO TEAM

Shania Krause, David Sproat, Sam Weston

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Stacie Curnow

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Please join us for upcoming Wednesday services, livestreamed at 6:00 p.m., followed by zoom conversation “Acting Against Racism” at 6:30 p.m.:

- Wed, Feb. 24 ~ In Community with Creation (Reflection from the Rova family)
- Wed, March 3 ~ In Community with all the Saints (Colleen Birt)
- Wed, March 10 ~ In Community with our Neighbor (Denise Scheer)
- Wed, March 17 ~ In Community with those on the Margins (Cindy Monroe)
- Wed, March 24 ~ In Community with Christ (Brian Peterson & Paul Anderson)

FLC Community Conversations on Racism and Justice - Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Immediately following each service at 6:30 pm will be an FLC community discussion via zoom, using the articles & conversation guide *Acting Against Racism* published by Christian Century. Please join in this important conversation as we learn and grow together!

The Zoom discussion group begins following the services at 6:30 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88382398856?pwd=SkE4RkFJa1FPQ1lrVUtIRXJPdlkxZz09>

Link to the *Acting Against Racism* document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrYOqNXABKJFrvnNJ-rZljjr5mKEwwBl/view?usp=sharing>

Article Reading & Discussion schedule

- Feb 17 - "Becoming less defensive about White privilege"
- Feb. 24 - "James Baldwin reminds us not to be surprised by this"
- March 3 - "I believe racism is wrong. So what?"
- March 10 - "How do we know Black lives matter to God?"
- March 17 - "Why are so many White Americans standing up for racial justice?"
- March 24 - "Wearing down structural evil with the ministry of erosion"

Note:

The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 am - 1 pm. Use the front entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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