



"Reminder," Mike Moyers, 2012

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 21, 2021
The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 21, 2021

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ (I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ), BWV 639
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Our organ music today is centered around two chorale preludes by J. S. Bach. The first is taken from his Orgelbüchlein, a didactic collection based on the church year and intended to show the various ways that an organist could create a chorale-based composition. Ich ruf zu dir is one of the most well known works from this collection, and while it is not in the "Lent" section of the Orgelbüchlein, the text is one of supplication and yearning. Some musical scholars have described the piece as a "supplication in a time of despair," making it a particularly appropriate text for Lent during this time of grieving and uncertainty.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

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. 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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

A reading from Genesis.

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 25:1-10

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithful-ness.

Psalm 25:10

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹To | you, O Lord,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths. REFRAIN**

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

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way. REFRAIN**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: I Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

A reading from First Peter.

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,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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #177

The assembly sings the acclamation.



Cantor: One does not live by | bread alone,*
but by every word that comes from the | mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:1-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

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 Steve Springer

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,

a sword and shield vic - to - rious;
 We would be lost, re - ject - ed.
 all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod
 But now a cham - pion comes to fight,
 we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;
 for God him - self fights by our side

and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed.
 they can - not o - ver - pow'r us.
 with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,
 Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!
 This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage.
 If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.
 Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.
 He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!
 wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.
 He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of Lent, a time for reflection and recognition, let us as a congregation first pray for one another, aided here by the measured language of hymn verse. [Text: Fred Kaan, ELW 603]

*God when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.*

*Through that stillness, with you Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.*

*Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew!*

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We also yet pray for this world of nations and people.

O Gd, day follows day and the story of nations and people changes little in its tale of unrest as strategies for prominence, jealousies and retaliations promote with disregard anger and bitterness, harsh divisions and personal harm. We want to pray, govern by your rightness these disturbing times, break the plans of cruel oppression and direct the efforts of all toward championing just relationships and a vision for the common good.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We continue to pray for those in need.

O Gd, be mindful of your mercy and steadfast love and bend with kindness to aid those burdened with uncertainty and change, those overtaken by personal disturbances and stress, those caught by storm and disease and surrounded by death. Shelter them in a mighty embrace as they look to you and put their trust in you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear out prayer.**

Finally let us pray for all who journey into this Lenten season, that with reflection and recognition we measure well the steps we are taking.

O Gd, guide us continually through these day of Lent, in our fasting, alms and prayers, that any piety we offer be not for payment or parade, but given as a preparation for your holiness to enter in and feed our hungry souls. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

MEDITATION

Members of the Chancel Choir

Living Bread
Gilbert Martin (b.1941)

In Matthew's account of the temptation of Jesus, Satan, knowing that Jesus was hungry, suggested to Jesus that he turn stones into bread, so that he may eat. Jesus's reply was that, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Today's anthem amplifies Jesus's sentiment that God's Living Word feeds hungry souls.

Living Bread, our souls do hunger,
Satisfy us by thy grace;
From us who deserve thine anger,
Hide thou not thy holy face.

In confession, humbly bowing,
Stand we to remove our sin;
By thy mercy thus allowing
Holiness to enter in.

God of glory, we adore thee,
Living Word, be thou our Bread,
Feast we now in joy before thee
Till our hungry souls are fed.

BLESSING

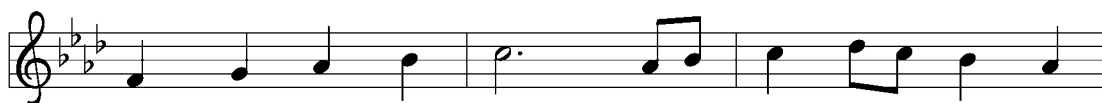
The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

ELW #319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
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Ein Feste Burg (A Mighty Fortress), BWV 720
J. S. Bach

Perhaps no other chorale is more strongly associated with Lutheranism than our Hymn of the Day today, Luther's own setting of Psalm 46, Ein Feste Burg. The text and tune were written in the mid 1520s, and compositions based on the tune have been written by many composers throughout history, including Bach, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Reger, and Vaughan Williams. This setting is from Bach's early years, and displays both the ingenuity and compositional experimentation that marked his early period.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Dianne Huston, Lector
John Hoelter, Assisting Minister
Eric Holtan, Cantor and Director of Choirs
Kevin Seal, Organ