



*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

Ironwork, Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University, Nashville (1960)

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**DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**March 14, 2021**

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

# Sunday, March 14, 2021

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Pastor Stephen Springer

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*As we mark one year since the Covid pandemic imposed limits on our society and on our congregation, we have chosen to use the readings and prayers for the fifth Sunday in Lent (out of sequence).*

*God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.*

**PROLOGUE**

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Improvisation*

*Today we celebrate the one year anniversary of our last indoor public worship service. We also celebrate the arrival of a beautiful piano that will serve Dove of Peace for many decades to come. Our worship service, and the readings and music we hear this morning, feature themes based on the duality of our situation: darkness and light, death and renewal, despair and joy. For prologue, our organist offers an improvisation reflecting on both the reflectiveness of Lent, and the tragedy of the Covid 19 Pandemic.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✠ one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us  
and all of creation.

**Amen.**

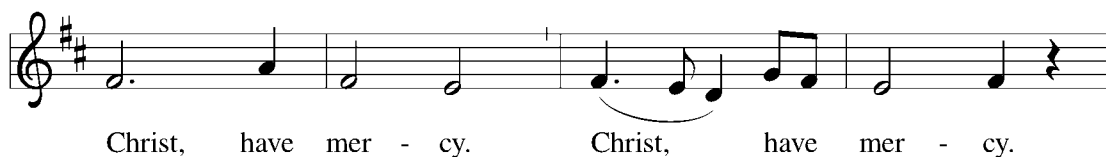
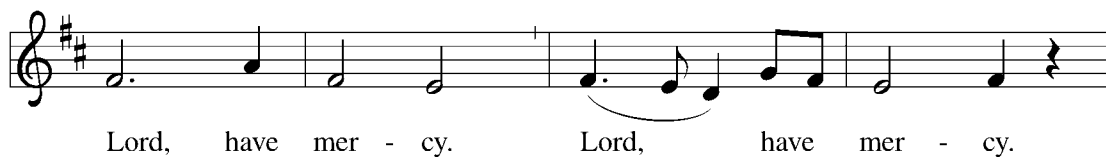
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,  
**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ✠ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**



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.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers.  
 Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in  
 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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.

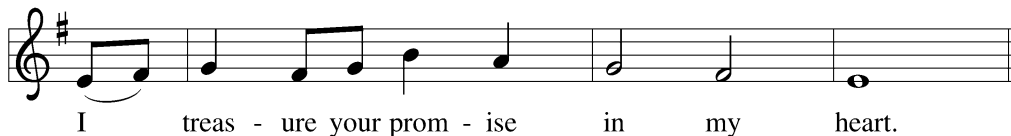
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 119:9-16

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



Psalm 119:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>9</sup>How shall the young keep | their way clean?

By keeping | to your word.

<sup>10</sup>**With my whole | heart I seek you;**

**let me not stray from | your commandments.**

<sup>11</sup>I treasure your promise | in my heart,

that I may not | sin against you.

<sup>12</sup>**Blessed are | you, O LORD;**

**instruct me | in your statutes. REFRAIN**

<sup>13</sup>With my lips | I recite

all the judgments | of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup>**I take greater delight in the way of | your decrees**

**than in all man- | ner of riches.**

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on | your commandments  
and give attention | to your ways.

<sup>16</sup>**My delight is | in your statutes;  
I will not for- | get your word. REFRAIN**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10**

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*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW #177

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*The assembly sings the acclamation.*



*Cantor:* Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a | single grain;\* but if it dies, it | bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

## **GOSPEL: John 12:20-33**

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*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now 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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

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*Pastor Steve Springer*



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on God's covenant promises, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of mercy, 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. Draw all people to yourself.

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

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Sow in us seeds of your wisdom and truth. Hide your word in our hearts, let us not neglect or stray



from it. Teach us to follow Jesus in all that we do, that our work may bring you praise.  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

During this year of danger and separation we have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and many other things, and we have come close to despairing of ever seeing an end to the pandemic that plagues us. We pray for the death of the coronavirus, that we may rise to join one another in corporate worship once again.  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to consider your ways to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace. Give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Protect the innocent in countries torn by war and strife.  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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. Send rain to our parched desert.  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, your compassion is great, and you sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. You hear the cries and see the tears of the needy: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, the ill in mind or body, the dying and those who grieve. Refresh the weary, uphold the faint, restore the joy of all who need to feel your presence. Grant them renewed faith to know you are near.  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Living Lord, source of eternal salvation, in the cross of Christ your name is glorified. We thank you for those who have given us words to worship and praise you. With all those who have died and risen in Christ, bring us into life everlasting.  
Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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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.**

*Christ Be Our Seed*  
Carl Schalk (1929-2021)

*Last week, the Chancel Choir presented an anthem by Schalk in Renaissance motet style. This week the Choir continues its celebration of Schalk's life with a contrasting piece in more lyrical style, that features the composer's indelible hymn-tune approach to melody. The piece utilizes a text by one of Schalk's favorite hymn writers and collaborators Herbert Brokering, that asks Christ to be our seed for which Gods sends the light to wake the birth of seeding.*

God prints the name of Christ upon the spirit.  
God leads the walk through hills and ocean sand.  
God wills each one a heritage of riches  
And holds all life inside a healing hand.

God is the source of daily health and healing,  
God makes us well with medicines of life.  
God is the spring, the fountain of thanksgiving,  
All words of grace, all faith to heal our strife.

God knows the heart, the reasons we are crying,  
God knows the mind, each feeling, new inside.  
God knows old dreams, new things we want tomorrow,  
God knows the fear a silent soul will hide.

God sends the light to wake the birth of seeding,  
And gives old death and Easter day to rise,  
God sends the rain, the seasons, then the harvest,  
While tunes of glory fill all earth and skies.

Christ be our seed, to grow what God has given;  
We do our work, as work in Jesus' name.  
We lift our hope, our want, our need before thee.  
You healed us then; heal, heal us once again.

Herbert Brokering (1926-2009)

**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***Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW #379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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*Allegro* (from *Piano Sonata in D Major, K. 284*)  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

*One commonality through much of Mozart's music, including his piano sonatas, are his expressions of joyful exuberance. The opening movement from the Köchel 284 D Major piano sonata is no different, featuring an orchestral opening, ebullient tremolos, and all of the playfulness that characterizes his early piano compositions. Mozart wrote this sonata in 1775, when the composer was 19 years old. It is labelled "Dürnitz," as it was commissioned by and written for the Baron von Dürnitz, an amateur bassoonist and keyboardist who apparently failed to pay Mozart for the work. Mozart's 6th piano sonata, this work marks a departure in style from the previous five, as Mozart is developing a mature approach to form and thematic exploration that is a hallmark of his later piano sonatas. This piece is both an ideal expression of joy, as well as an excellent way to show off our new Steinway "B," an instrument that will be heard in the Dove of Peace sanctuary for many years to come.*

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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