

THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Issued on February 17, 2021**

First Sunday in Lent

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From Pastor Sam

Lenten Blessings,

By the time you read this, Ash Wednesday will have passed, and we will be immersed in Lent. If you received a cross of ashes on your forehead, it will have washed off, the physical evidence of a faith practice gone until next year.

On Sunday afternoon, I prepared to burn the dried palms for this year's ashes. Wearing my old clothes, I brought my old frying pan and old palms to the driveway and out of something old, created something new. As I placed the palm pieces in the pan, and prepared to set them aflame, my neighbor looked over and waved. "Ah, making ashes?" he asked. (When you live in the parsonage, folks aren't at all confused when you start a little fire in your driveway in February - they figure it out pretty quickly.) "I didn't realize that Lent was starting already!" he added. He then asked questions about how we in the parish would be remembering that day.

Whether it is preparing ashes or wearing them, these outward signs of our faith can help others remember their own faith, inspire them to ask questions or even open up the chance for a deeper conversation about Jesus. The same thing can happen when we wear a cross necklace or a Thrivent or TCLP t-shirt - these physical cues can be a prompt for fruitful discussion. When I was in seminary, I would frequently set up a study area in the local coffee shop (those were the days!) I would put care in how my books on the table would be viewed by those sitting nearby or walking past. I would regularly experience people asking questions about book titles or my area of study. While my work may have been interrupted, I was happy to be able to draw attention to God.

While these physical clues to our faith are helpful, they are of course not the only (nor the best) way for everyone to know that we are followers of

Jesus Christ. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

During this season of Lent, as we turn our hearts to God, let us seek ways to introduce others to Jesus. Let us draw attention to the One who loves us, redeems us and sanctifies us. Let us wear the sign of the cross not just on our foreheads, but in our whole being, as we pour out the love we have received onto others.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Sam

News and Information

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ([**whiteginger20@gmail.com**](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)) or Pastor Beth ([**chellman4557@gmail.com**](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ([**harryavery@yahoo.com**](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.

Worship Schedule for the week of February 17-February 21 (all on Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone:

Meeting ID: 7700997419

Dial by your location

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 7700997419

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

February 17: Book Study at 6 pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

February 21: Sunday Worship – First Sunday of Lent, 10 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Ash Wednesday – Here is the link for the service of Holy

Communion for Ash Wednesday <https://youtu.be/VwfAQOF9a8Y>

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm_PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g

Understanding Facebook Groups and Pages

Tri-County Lutheran Parish has both a Facebook group and a Facebook page. Ever wondered why and what the difference is?

First, our group is a closed group. This means that you must be an approved member of the group to see what is in the group. The closed status lets us post things that are not meant for widespread viewing such as prayer concerns, diagnoses and other personal things. We also cannot share what is posted on the group allowing for more privacy.

The page is public. This means anyone can see what is there and members can share what is posted on the page. Please be sure that you do not put personal information on the page.

Why have both? Because we want to have a place where the whole parish is able to share information in a private manner (group) and a place where we can access shareable information (page). An example of what is on the group is when we posted gratitude prompts in November. Members shared some personal information with one another. An example of what is on the page is our worship events. We want you to share these! When you share the worship event, a copy of the event is placed on your page so your friends can see it. The easiest evangelism there is!

It is important that you do “like” all posts. We want the public to see our page. The more “likes” we have, the more prominent it is in the Facebook searches. Please take a second and click the like button to help the parish grow a social media presence. Share the worship events and other posts from the page so others may worship with us.

The TCLP Outreach Team will meet Saturday, 2/20 at 10AM via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87898930170>) If you would like to join and you do not have Zoom capabilities, you can call Pr. Beth or Pr. Sam and we will do what we can to facilitate!

The Parish Prayer Group is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

Also – Pastor Sam has been hearing some thoughts around to start **an all-parish Sunday School** (likely on Zoom, due to distance/Covid). To make this happen **we need volunteers to teach and lead**. Do you have a gift for teaching and like to work with kids? Please let Pastor Sam know so we can try to get something started!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God’s hands and feet for each other!

Opportunity to Help!!! Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: mmcps@tclparish.org, which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Karen Schubert kara3215@juno.com (H) 518-731-6751

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to the new email: parishadmin@tclparish.org. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voicemail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to:

parishadmin@tclparish.org

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

Book Study

Book study continues! We are reading and discussing "Rising out of Hatred" by Eli Saslow. We meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please use the following Zoom ID: 7700997419

Bible Study

The Beatitudes have much to say about our lives as disciples of Christ. Beginning in Lent we will explore the Beatitudes in depth. I will be using the book "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship" to guide us. While it isn't necessary to have the book, some of you may like it to follow along. Please let me know if you would like me to order one for you. They are also available on Amazon, but at a higher price than direct from the publisher in a bulk order.

Bible study will be on Monday evening at 7pm by zoom and on Tuesday morning at 10am using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>
Hope you can join us!

2021 TCLP Board Members – TBA

If you have additions, deletions, changes, etc. for the Parish Connection, bulletins, etc., please either call the Parish office at 518- 758-6526 or email: parishadmin@tclparish.org. Thank you!

Congregation Announcements

For all congregations: We will be having worship on Zoom only.

Time of worship is 10 a.m.

Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact -- TBA

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

Emanuel, Stuyvesant Falls 2021 Calendars have arrived. To get yours, speak to Dick Frick!

Christ in Our Home devotional booklets are here! Speak to Dick Frick if you would like a copy!

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Linda Frick	Term Expires 2022	Co-Treasurer
Olivia Dumont	Term Expires 2022	
Leslie Dumont	Term Expires 2023	
Jennifer Dunn	Term Expires 2024	
Shirley McThenia	Term Expires 2024	
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Pr. Beth	Ex Officio member	
Chuck Albertson*	Secretary	
Dick Frick*	Co-Treasurer	

* Non-elected council member

PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Chair:	Harry Avery (Chair)
Primary:	Harry Avery
Alternate:	Chuck Albertson

Committees

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)

Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson, Phyllis Keeler

WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)

Phyllis Keeler

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)

Karen Albertson

HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)

Will be from St. Luke's this year.

ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE

Contact -- TBA

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021

Tim McGlaulin

Mike Schunk

Janis McGlaulin

Dana Berntson

Ted Fiebke

Gail Paone

Karen McIntyre

Sharon Smith

Council Officers

Karen McIntyre -- President

Ken Schomaker -- Treasurer (not on council)

Sharon Smith -- Secretary

Sharon Campbell is new financial secretary (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps -- TBA

St. Luke's Offering Envelopes

They're here – the 2021 offering envelopes! Stop in and get yours today!

St. Luke's 2021 Calendars

They're here, too!! Stop in and get yours when you pick up your offering envelopes!

EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

TCLP Board Reps -- Pending

ZION, ATHENS

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
Gethen Proper	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
Carol Serazio		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
John Wais		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

Financial Secretary needed! Please see Bill, Gethen or anyone on the Council.

TCLP Board Reps: Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact – Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie Menagh	President	518-634-2026 home -- leave a message
(TBA)	Treasurer	
Sally Lord	Secretary	

TCLP Board Reps -- Pending

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever.

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact – Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeanette Wilber	President
Kurt Hoelter	Vice President
Heidi Brennan	Recording and Corresponding Secretary
Cate MacPherson	
Richard Mac Donald (Mac)	
Henry Bartel	

TCLP Board Reps – Jeanette Wilber, Patty Bervy

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal! Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

Contact – Charles Mayrer 518-479-3640 or cj33@gmail.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charles Mayrer	President
Brian Schell	Vice President
Treasurer	Charles Senrick

Cathy Teeter, Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.

OUTREACH : Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com

518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504 (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Pending

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact –TBA

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

Council Members

Anne Philipp	President
Eric Knodler	Vice President
Elaine Dickson	Treasurer (not on Council)
Rik Cosgrave	Financial Secretary (not on Council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email scullynik@yahoo.com.

Financial Secretary Needed Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: parishadmin@tclparish.org and she can help direct you to the right person!

CONTACT US:

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whitginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --pastordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

Devotions and Prayers for the First Sunday of Lent - curated by Vicar Carolyn

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

This Lenten prayer is considered by our Christian siblings in the Byzantine Orthodox tradition to be the most perfect prayer for this penitential season. It is prayed during all their Lenten midweek services.

O Lord and Master of my life!

Take from me the spirit of laziness,
faint-heartedness, desire for power, and idle talk.

But give your servant
the spirit of chastity,
humility, patience, and love.

Yes, Lord and King!

Grant me to see my own errors

and not to unjustly or hastily judge my brother,
for you are blessed, now and forever. Amen.

“Lent: Forty days granted us in which to marvel at a love too great
for words.” --**Brother Roger of Taizé**

“The patient and humble endurance of the cross – whatever nature it
may be – is the highest work we have to do.”

-St. Katherine Drexel

As a certain strong wind blows in a dark and gloomy night and strikes all
the plants and seeds, moving them this way and that in shaking
agitation so also have we fallen under the power of the might of the
devil of darkness...And we are moved, buffeted, and shaken by the stiff
blowing wind of sin, and through all our nature...we are thoroughly
affected. All the members of the body are shaken; not one part of the
soul or the body is immune from the passions of sin dwelling in us.

In a similar way, there is a day of light and the divine wind of the
Holy Spirit, breathing through and refreshing souls who live in the day
of divine light. It passes through the whole nature of the soul, the
thoughts and the entire substance of the soul, and all the members of
the body, as it recreates and refreshes them with a divine and ineffable
tranquility...

And just as in that other state of error the old self put on the
whole, complete self and wore the garment of the kingdom of
darkness...all who have put off the old and earthly self and from whom
Jesus has removed the clothing of the kingdom of darkness have put on
the new and heavenly self, Jesus Christ, so that once again the eyes are
joined to new eyes, ears to ears, head to head, to be completely pure
and bearing the heavenly image.

--Pseudo-Macarius

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

This hymn was composed by Fanny Crosby, one of the greatest hymn writers of the twentieth century. Blind since youth, Fanny Crosby's faith was never shaken; she once declared that "when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior." She desired to convert a million people to Christianity through her hymns, and after composing such greats as "Blessed Assurance," "Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior," and the hymn below, her musical witness to Christ surely accomplished that goal and beyond.

Jesus, keep me near the cross;
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me,
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed its beams around me. [Refrain]

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Brings its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadows o'er me. [Refrain]

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river. [Refrain]

A Prayer by Martin Luther

Lord Jesus,
You are my righteousness,
I am your sin.

You took on you what was mine;
yet set on me what was yours.
You became what you were not,
that I might become what I was not.
Amen.

“We give glory to You, Lord, who raised up Your cross to span the jaws of death like a bridge by which souls might pass from the region of the dead to the land of the living. We give glory to You who put on the body of a single mortal man and made it the source of life for every other mortal man. You are incontestably alive. Your murderers sowed Your living body in the earth as farmers sow grain, but it sprang up and yielded an abundant harvest of men raised from the dead.

Come then, my brothers and sisters, let us offer our Lord the great and all-embracing sacrifice of our love, pouring out our treasury of hymns and prayers before Him who offered His cross in sacrifice to God for the enrichment of us all.”

--St Ephrem of Edessa

Vicar Carolyn's Sermon on Transfiguration of our Lord, Mark 9:2-9

Today is Transfiguration Sunday. It is the end of the season of Epiphany, the final Sunday before the church green turns to purple, and Christmastide blessings fade to Lenten confessions. Epiphany begins with a revelation, the magi bearing witness to the Christ-child, and Epiphany ends with a revelation, the Transfiguration of Christ.

But what exactly is the Transfiguration? Even in this text, I feel the writer struggling to describe what happened on that hill so long ago.

It is six days after Jesus begins to tell his followers that he must suffer and die on a Cross, six days after he tells Peter to "get behind me, Satan" and warns his disciples that the way to the Kingdom may not be what they expected.

We begin with Peter, James, and John who are struggling up a mountain, sweaty and out of breath, their legs scratched from undergrowth they scrambled over. As they recover from the steep ascent, something changes. Everything changes. It is as if the whole world is becoming more real--Jesus' clothes and face are shining with an intensity brighter than the sun. His robes are unearthly clean, a purity never experienced on earth. The disciples' knees buckle, they cannot believe the scene before them.

This shining Jesus is speaking with ancestors of the past, celebrities of the Hebrew faith, the great Elijah who promised to return before the Messiah, and the greater Moses, the ultimate human teacher of God's Torah. The long dead return and speak with Jesus, their friend, rabbi, guide. It is extra-ordinary, super-natural. It is...terrifying.

And Peter...speaks. Peter interrupts this conversation between three of the greatest prophets in the Bible. And while Peter is much maligned for his intrusion by preachers throughout history...I have to admit, I feel for him. In scary and anxious situations, I'm the kind of person who will just start blabbering nonsense to fill the silence.

Peter speaks. He tries to be helpful, in his own sinful human way. He suggests a memorial--a building--some kind of structure to remember this spectacular event.

And just as six days before, Peter was rebuked and called 'Satan', here Peter is rebuked again. This time, by the voice of God.

"This is my Son, the Beloved--listen to him!"

Listen to him! Instead of speaking, instead of interrupting, instead of trying to build something that will only one day fall apart...listen to Christ. Listen to the Beloved. Listen to the Eternal Love.

Peter chose to speak, to talk instead of listen, to fill space rather than receive silence. And that, I believe, is a universal human failing, an opportunity for growth in all of us. Can we truly allow ourselves to listen to Jesus, to be guided by this glorious and terrifying figure of our faith?

This is our final revelation for Epiphany, our revelation that brings us into Lent. Brother Roger of the Taizé community once wrote of this season: "Lent: Forty days granted us in which to marvel at a love too great for words." We are entering forty days to marvel at love, to marvel at divine adoration for us.

But this love cannot truly be understood through the Transfiguration on its own. As the scene fades and the heavenly rebuke stings less, Jesus warns his followers to not speak of this event until after his death. It is only after the Cross and Resurrection that the disciples can put Transfiguration into context. Like a movie that, at its ending, prompts a thousand rewatches to discover hidden details in its midst, the Transfiguration of Christ, that glory and wonder, could only make sense after Christ's death. The disciples--and that includes us-- cannot understand God's glory except through the Cross.

We understand that heavenly glory as abundant, forgiving, eternal love. The great Catholic activist Dorothy Day wrote that "the final word is love." The final word is love, and it is not spoken from the heights of a glorious hill on Transfiguration but from the forsaken loneliness of a Cross on Calvary. The final word is love, and it was spoken in solidarity with all

who suffer, with all who feel forgotten by God, for all who yearn for the Kingdom of Heaven.

That is the love we must listen to this Lent, these forty days to marvel at a love too great for words.

Listen to the love that shines brighter than all the stars in the cosmos together...

Listen to the love that descends from the height of glory on Transfiguration to the pain of the Cross to the depths of Hell for you, for me, for us...

This day, this week, listen. For Christ is still speaking now, the Beloved has words for you today, if you would only listen. Let go of the structures we build to give us security, let go of our words to fill the silence, surrender all that distracts us from God...

And listen. This is God's Son, the Beloved, who died for us.

Listen to that love.

Amen.

Tri-County Lutheran Parish
February 21, 2021 First Sunday in Lent
Based on the ELW, Setting 1. Worship Leader: Pastor Samantha Perret
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Announcements

Call to worship

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Out of the depths we cry to God, in our suffering and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. Amen.

So let us pray with one another, first in silence.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God, hear our prayer:

C: For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness.

For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us.

For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist.

For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us.

We pray for the courage to admit our fault,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the hope that your grace awaits us.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

L: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of the Triune God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. **C: Amen.**

Hymn *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* ELW 504

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Greeting

L: 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.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: 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

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.”

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 25:1-10

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.**

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 compassion 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 goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. ¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

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.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C: 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."

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hillert)* **ELW 186**



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

Apostles Creed

C: 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 into hell; 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.*

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. We pray for our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction (*especially . . . here local environmental concerns may be named*). Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pray for military personnel, especially John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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, especially Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bob and Rita Laffety, Larry Gander, Mary Ellen Gander, Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Karen Lasher, Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickle, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Robert Millius, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pray for the family and Friends of Ellen Puglio, Burma Cavanagh, Darren Faulkner, Alice Holt, George Havlick, & Michelle Rigney, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Peace

L: I will give you all a moment to unmute yourselves... The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings sent electronically or by mail for the mission of the church including the care of those in need.

Offertory

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Dialogue

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Preface

L: 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

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Lord's Prayer

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

C: 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.

*** Distribution of Communion**

Post Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

*** Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

*** Blessing**

L: 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. **C: Amen.**

Hymn *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* **ELW 325**

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;
I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;
all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: Please unmute yourselves... And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of... Ellen Puglio, Burma Cavanagh, Alice Holt, George Havlick, Darren Faulkner, Michelle Rigney.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bob and Rita Laffety, Larry Gander, Mary Ellen Gander, Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Mary AnnPaul & family; Karen Lasher, Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Burma Cavanagh, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Robert Millius, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.