

**Sunday, February 21, 2021 First Sunday in Lent, Year B**

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

**Prelude**      *A Mighty Fortress* (Instrumental)

**Announcements**

**After Announcements - *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*** ELW# 777, stzs. 1-4

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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**

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

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

**Music** – *Help Me to Love Only You* (Ken Bible)

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

<sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>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: Mark 1:9-15**

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

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

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

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

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day** - *Thy Holy Wings* ELW# 613

## The Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us profess our faith praying the words of The Apostle's Creed.

## 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.

**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.

**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. **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. **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. **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. **Your mercy is great.**

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

**Music** – *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* ELW# 188

**Offering Prayer**

Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation to Communion**

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.

**Music** – *As the Deer*

**Prayer after Communion**

God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

**Music** - *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* ELW 777 Stzs 5,6

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**