

# First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

## INTRODUCTION

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the Season of Lent resonates with somber notes of our own human failings to live our lives in ways that reflect and participate in God's promises of grace and life. The readings we hear during this season remind us that even when we fail, God's Covenant with us and all Creation is life. A Covenant that cannot fail, no matter our response. In the Old Testament today the familiar story of Noah, a Rainbow, and God's everlasting covenant, "Never again!" that God has chosen us for life—a Covenant affirmed in the waters of Baptism as in Christ and in the gift of the Holy Spirit, God names us "Beloved" and claims us for life.

## GATHERING LITANY (adapted from Psalm 33)

**Let your steadfast love come to us O God**

Truly your eye is upon those who fear you O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love

**To deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine and plague**

When the seas roar, when storms rage, when life is unpredictable

**Let your steadfast love come to us O God**

When our hearts are heavy from the cares of the world

**Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield**

Surely our heart rejoices in you; for in your holy name we put our trust

**Let your loving kindness, O Lord be upon us, even as we place our hope in you**

Let your steadfast love come to us O God



**"O God We Call" (Songleader)**

O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from  
deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you.

The image shows a musical score for the song "O God We Call". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the lyrics "O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from". The second system covers "deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many chords and some melodic lines.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

In the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

From the first covenant with Noah and all the Earth, to the new covenant we have in Jesus, God's promises are faithful and sure. Trusting God's mercy and grace, we confess our sin.

**"O God We Call" (Songleader)**

God of covenant, You colour our world like a rainbow stretching across the sky. You are the giver of life, of breath, of hope, of everything we need for life together.

**But we fail to trust you. We pretend we have control over our lives; that our success and accomplishments are due to our own work; so often our wealth—what we have to excess—is taken at the expense of others, the poor, the hungry, the powerless.**

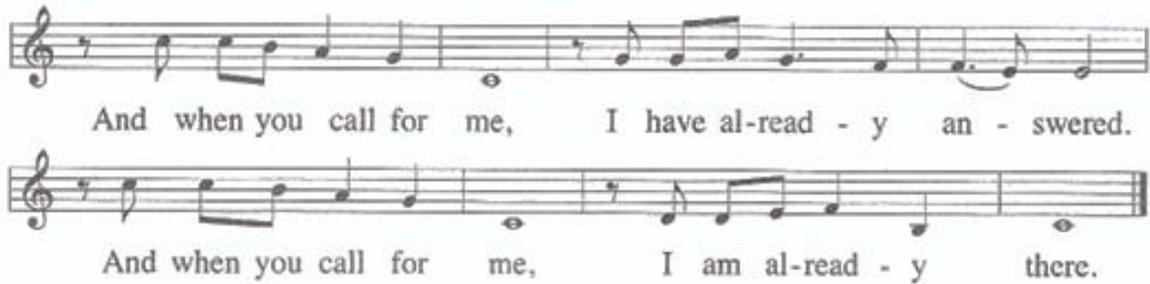
**"O God We Call" (Songleader)**

O God of life, our hearts are blind. We close our eyes to your promises. Because to open them is to see what you see—a world turned away from you.

Forgive us, O God. Flood our hearts with your love. Colour us with your promise to all generations, that, like Noah, we would trust you alone and live our lives in you.

**"O God We Call" (Songleader)**

**“And When You Call For Me” (PKC)**



Children of promise, we hear this Good News! “Never again!” says the Lord. “Never again will all flesh be destroyed. For I am establishing my covenant with you.” In Jesus, God’s Son, the covenant is sure, that God forgives us all our sin, and we live in the blessing promised to all people, in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

**“And When You Call For Me” (PKC)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Merciful God, You made your covenant with Noah and the animals, with the earth and all generations—a promise you will always keep. As we begin our Lenten journey, help us to trust you even when we cannot see, knowing you to be faithful. As we live in your blessing, let us be bearers of your promise to a broken and fearful world. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**POEM “A Rainbow Reminds”** [www.seasonsonline.ca](http://www.seasonsonline.ca) Author Unknown

A rainbow reminds us of God’s promise—  
A blessing poured down  
Through rain and tears  
A blessing mixed in rays and drops  
Of joy and sadness

A rainbow reminds us of God’s sadness—  
Disappointment in creation  
Humanity turning away  
Caring more for self  
Than God or others

A rainbow reminds us of storms past—  
Weathering cloudy darkness  
Life’s hardships and trials  
Feet shuffling forward  
Love a weight and relief

A rainbow reminds us of future blessings—  
Promises carved of sky  
Visible but not always recognized  
Grace given to all  
Blessing us in its abundance



HYMN OF THE DAY "Great is Thy Faithfulness" ELW #733



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

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 to the dead.  
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

### "Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us O Lord"

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff is accompanied by lyrics. The first and fourth staves have the same lyrics: "Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord." The second staff has the same lyrics. The third staff has the lyrics: "Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word." The music is written in a simple, melodic style suitable for a church service.

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

God of covenant and promise, your promise extends to every generation. We pray for your blessing on your Church, its leaders, teachers and people. Strengthen us in the covenant of our baptism and guide us to faithfully follow Jesus, strengthened in body, soul and spirit for life and witness in the wilderness of this world; that all might find their life in you.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

God of all creation, we pray for your blessing on all creatures and creation. As you gathered beast and bird and bug into the protection of the ark, so protect and restore every living creature. Grant rain, enough for the sprouting of seed and growing of grain, for food to nourish all creation; that all might find their life in you.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

God of all nations, all your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of those who provide leadership in times of chaos. Bring together rich and poor, homeless and housed, and cause the hearts of all to turn to you in repentance and faith, that all might find life in you.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

God of the broken and sorrowful, we pray for your blessing on all who suffer from or with COVID; all who are in prison; those who live in long-term care facilities; the homeless, the dying, and who are sick especially Sharla, Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Eva, Olai and Suzy, Dave and Trudy, Lyle and Marlene, Olivia, Syd, Pastor Dick and Jan, Corrie, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowyn, Catherine, Wendell & Fran, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Montgomery, Rosemary, Landon, Shellene, Elizabeth, Judy and Ron, and Miriam. Rain down your promise of healing and life; that all might find their life in you.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

God of grace and promise, let your hand of steadfast love rest on all who grieve this day. Especially we pray for Cliff and Anne Elle, and Ian and Karen Stewardson and family and all who mourn the death of Iris, Cliff's sister. Give them strength to trust in your promises and hope to face each new day, believing that eternal life rests in you.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

God of all faithfulness, we pray your blessing on our congregation. Nurture us in our baptism identity and teach us to live it for the sake of others. We lift up to you Jim and Lu Gunther and Brian & Rose Gyorffy, and the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Women. We pray too for Brad, Chelsey, Astrid, Rory, and Rhys as Brad begins his deployment tour in Kuwait. Let your steadfast love and faithfulness guide our action and words as you call us to hope and faithfulness in Jesus; that all might find their life in you.

***"Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord"***

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Jesus who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. We entrust ourselves to you, O God, through Christ our Lord.

**Save us as you promised, we will trust your Word.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

For those who desire, at this time our service continues with Holy Communion, as we prepare our hearts and minds and tables for the communion meal. Once again, if you have not already done so, take a moment to pause the video and gather the elements you will share during the meal, remembering that Christ promises to come to us in the everyday things: bread or a cracker, wine or grape juice or water, and whatever dishes you have in your cupboard. Gather enough for you alone or for those who will join you in the meal with none left-over. As God's people together we will share of the bread and wine directly following the Lord's Prayer as we hear the words:

*"Together let us take and eat; the body of Christ given for you."*

*"Together let us take and drink; the blood of Christ shed for you."*

"Here is Bread" ELW #483



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,  
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,  
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,



he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,  
he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,  
he is with us. We'll pro-claim till he comes



Christ is with us here.  
feast on Je - sus here.  
Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

*Refrain*



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is



life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,



by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God of covenant and life, hear us as we praise, hear us as we pray, call us to your table, grant us your life. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When humanity was yet unborn, you breathed in us the breath of life. When all was darkness and it seemed nothing was good, you delivered Noah and his family; you stretched the heavens wide in promise of a rainbow. When we turn away, your faithfulness is to all generations in Jesus your Son who on the cross fulfilled your promise of infinite love and life with you. And we give you thanks and praise.

**"Here is Bread" ELW #483 PKC**

Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,  
He is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,  
Feast on Jesus here.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." In the same way, 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."

Loving God, no matter where we are, we are your people. No matter how we are gathered, you are our God, and you promise, O Christ that you are present here in bread and wine, in body and blood, in community and grace. Gather into communion all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit that; strengthened, and nourished for the journey, we might be your people in the world, through Jesus Christ your Son, through him, with him, in him, all glory and honor are yours now and forever. Amen.

**"Here is Bread" ELW #483 PKC**

Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,  
He is with us. We'll proclaim till he comes  
Jesus crucified.

Living in the hope and promise of forgiveness and grace, we pray as Jesus taught us...

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us;  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**"Here is Bread" ELW #483 PKC**

*Refrain*

In this bread there is healing, in this cup is  
Life forever. In this moment,  
By the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

"Together let us take and eat; the body of Christ given for you."  
"Together let us take and drink; the blood of Christ shed for you."

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us as we journey in these forty days. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our offerings, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

**BLESSING**

You are who 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.**



SENDING HYMN "Praise to You O God of Mercy" (vs. 1-2) ELW #208



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

**SENDING**

Go in peace, Live in God's Promises!

Thanks be to God! We Will!

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