

*First Sunday
in Lent*

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Love Together



If you are a visitor with us today, we welcome you in the name of Christ.
We encourage our guests to join us in the communion meal because Jesus welcomes all to his table of grace, uniting and filling us for love and service. Christ is our host and our food, bearing to us God's forgiveness and grace through this harvest of field and vineyard.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*You may respond with the parts printed in **bold print**.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Again and again, God meets us where we are. God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget. Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone. And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder. Family of faith, please pray with me as we confess our sins.

Silence for reflection.

God who meets us where we are— There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

You were with Jesus at his baptism. You were with him in the wilderness, And even in between, you were there, Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."

We know that you are with us too—In the good, the bad, and everything in between—
But so often we act like we are alone.

Instead of coming to you with our hurt, We hold it in or cast it onto others. Instead of coming to you with our joy, We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you while living like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.

You are the God who meets us where we are.

Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this: God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning, and God calls you beloved.

We are washed by the water. We are called beloved. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen

GATHERING HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days

#320

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things
were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed. | 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend,
became
the herald of Messiah's name. |
| 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame. | 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face. |

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: God be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy God, Heavenly Mother who gave us birth,

All: 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.

KYRIE



▲ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord. have mer - cy:



▲ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ. have mer - cy:



WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Pastor Clark Brown

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.

AM: A reading from Genesis.

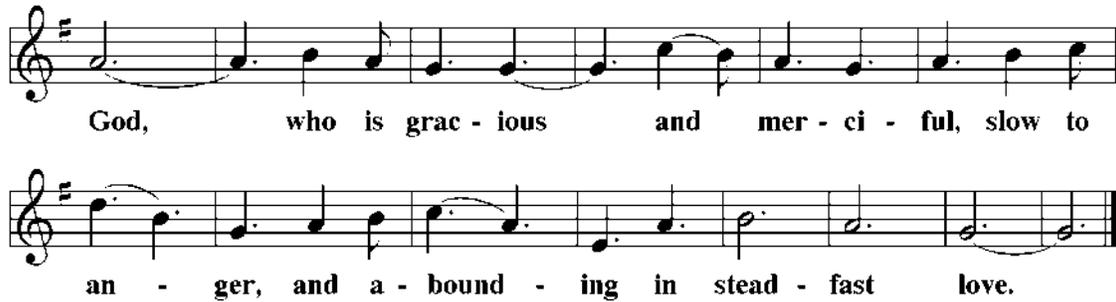
⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my 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."

AM: Word of God, word of life. All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

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.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Mark. **All: 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."

wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the

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."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Clark Brown

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

#325

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,
All at once and in every moment.
We believe that God meets us where we are—
In heartbreak and high hopes,
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,
In joy and in suffering,
In loneliness and in connection,
In sanctuaries and in living rooms,
In marches and in waiting rooms.
We believe that nothing we do or leave undone
Can distance us from God’s love.
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.
Again and again, God meets us where we are
And invites us into wholeness.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with **“Your mercy is great.”**

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.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth’s creatures and habitats from destruction, especially we think of the plants, trees, animals, and marine life of our beautiful Monterey Bay. 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. 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. And give healing and strength to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Bill, Glenda, Sandy, David, Colbie, Dawn, Grant, the families and friends of Philip Caniglia and George Silva and those that we now name silently or aloud... (pause). 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 our work to feed the hungry and homeless near and far away. 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

MEAL

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

You are welcome to share the peace using the comment section on YouTube or with anyone sheltering in peace with you.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

Let us remember to offer ourselves—our time, our abilities, our possessions—for the ongoing ministry of St. Timothy and the wider church. You may continue to send in your offering by postal mail or use our online giving option at www.sttim.org.

Create in Me

#185

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Faithful God,

All: 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: God meets us in the night—

All: Before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

Pastor: God meets us in the light—

All: Where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, and where people gather around the table.

Pastor: God meets us at the threshold—

All: At the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

Pastor: And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us in between—

All: Staying with us through the wilderness.

Pastor: And God surely meets us in this simple meal.

All: Praise and thanks to God for meeting us here.

Pastor: Praise and thanks to you... ..now and forever.

All: Amen

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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**

or **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**

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

As we share communion in our homes, we remember that we are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, sharing in communion with the saints of every time and place. We receive the body and blood of Christ and share in the life of God as we accept the bread and wine or grape juice, and hear the words: “The body of Christ given for you” and “the blood of Christ shed for you.”

COMMUNION SONG

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

#631 vs. 1 & 4

1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
you would come to me and live."

Refrain

Jesus, ever flowing fountain,
give us water from your well.

In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.

4 "Come to me, repentant sinners;
leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion,
turn to me, I call your name." *Refrain*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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.

All: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen

SENDING SONG

Out in the Wilderness

vs. 1, 2, & 4



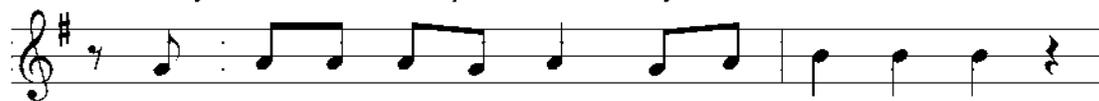
1 Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
2 Tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
3 An - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
4 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



when the Spir - it says, "Go," you can't say, "No."
though you try to be strong, it's been so long.
you are far . . . from home where wild things roam.
When you were . . . bap - tized, you re - a - lized



You lis - ten for the voice when you're bend - ed low;
He whis - pers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
There's dan - ger ev - 'ry - where but you're not a - lone;
you'd heard the voice of God from the o - p'ning skies:



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.
 tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.
 an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness.
 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister:

As you leave this space,
 May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
 May your arms hold those in need.
 May your feet walk toward justice.
 May your heart trust its worth.
 May your soul dance in God's grace.
 And may this be your rhythm—
 Again and again and again,
 Until God's promised day.
 In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
 Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Presiding Minister—Pastor Clark Brown
Assisting Minister—Nancy Opsata
Musician—Desma Johnson
Cantors—Bob & Adrian Johannsen
Altar Care—Lynn Wagner
Audio—Jim Helgason
Streaming Video—Jon Gerdes

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in your prayers:

Bill Dugger, friend of Pastor Clark, following emergency heart surgery.

Glenda Tankersley, Ia Bolter's niece, in a nursing home on dialysis.

The family and friends of George Silva, brother of Pastor Clark's brother in law.

The family of Philip Caniglia, father of Steve Solomon's friend Phyllis.

Sandy Hoskin, undergoing cancer treatment again.

David Holland, husband of Dee Holland and brother of Lucille Pires, undergoing chemo therapy for prostate and bone cancer.

Colbie Schueneman, grandniece of Adrian, 17^{1/2} months old diagnosed with a neuro-degenerative disease.

Dawn Stallings, daughter of Dolores, who has suffered a stroke.

Grant Hobson, grandnephew of Matt Schulz, being treated for leukemia, and his parents Claire and Luke.

Healthcare workers on the front line of the pandemic and essential workers facing daily risk of disease.

All service members, fire fighters, and police officers (and their families).

For those living in war-torn regions and all refugees.

For the mission of this congregation, the Monterey Bay Conference, and the entire Sierra Pacific Synod, and for our leaders and for the leaders throughout the world.

Please continue to pray for the ongoing concerns of these listed here.

Torie Hamilton

Rodger Marty

Bonnie Bennett

Jim McMullins

Bill Reynolds

Mary Lee Slater

Marjonie Gabriel

Tom Brown

Aaron Grieg

Byron Heppert

Jacqueline Graham

Gloria Llenaresas

Riley Ann Holland

Ronnie Lyons

Irene McCloud

Thomas Ansley

Jackie Rullman

Linda Henderson

Beverly Schneideman

Justice Gaudoin

Peter Kracht

Isabella Silva

Randy Hoch

Don Butler

Mark Northcutt

Helen Leikam

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Liturgy: WOV Setting 5 *Bread of Life* © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
The Glory of These Forty Days, Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt. (public domain).
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, Text: African American spiritual (public domain).
Create in Me a Clean Heart Text: Psalm 51:10-12 (public domain).
Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374.
Out in the Wilderness, Text and Music: Jay Beech © 1999.

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Sharing God's Love Together

February 21, 2021

Notes and announcements

- **Study, pray, and discuss during the week:** Join Pastors Clark and Tony: Wednesday 2 PM **Bible Study**, **Holden Evening Prayer** on Wednesday at 6:30 PM, and Sunday 11:15 AM **Pastors' Forum**. Email Pastor Clark for info: pastorclark@sttim.org.
- **"Stories of Faith in Action"** Visit now to learn how your offering sustains and enhances ministries that lift up God's people at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.
- **"Online Worship:** All services are posted online to YouTube. If you have internet access, our YouTube Channel is at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHP8hutt19neqHHHpbQPcDA> Please subscribe to our channel. Sunday live-streams are at 10 AM Pacific Time.
- **Social Hour:** We have a social hour on Zoom Sunday at 10:45 am. Information for worship and the social hour will be emailed each week. **If you want to be on our email list or have questions**, email/call/text Pastor Clark at pastorclark@sttim.org or 831-521-1818.
- **Preparing for communion.** Our online Sunday worship will include communion. As you feel called, prepare to share in communion by setting aside some bread or crackers, and some wine or juice, as you have them available. If you need any of these items, please contact Ida Barber.
- **Prayer Concerns:** Please call Dorothy Kirk with any new or changed prayer concerns at 375-1043.
- **Shopping etc.:** Do you need help with shopping or other needs or can volunteer to help? Please contact Pastor Clark at 831-521-1818 or pastorclark@sttim.org.
- **Hymnals:** Would you like to borrow a hymnal while we are "sheltering in peace?" Please contact the office and we will make arrangements.
- **Offering:** Please remember your offerings to St. Timothy as our expenses continue and we experience loss of income from outside groups. Offering can be mailed to the church office, sent automatically using your bank, or online by visiting our website www.sttim.org.