



Service of the Word
Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent

WELCOME BY THE CELEBRANT

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who brings us out of captivity into freedom,
out of the wilderness into the promised land,
out of death into life.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

For self-centered living,
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours,
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships,
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations,
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

For reluctance to share the gifts of God,
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn,
and for angry deeds that harm:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,
and for squandering the gifts of love and peace:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

GATHERING SONG *Bless Now, O God the Journey* (ELW 326)

GREETING (ELW p. 213)

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 98)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading and preaching,

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

The reading may be announced:

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.”

The reading may be concluded:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 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.

¹⁰**All 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

The reading may be announced:

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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.

The reading may be concluded:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church..

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

CREED

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

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. 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. Give healing and strength to all who suffer.

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.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 217)

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING (ELW p. 217)

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)

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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 221)

BLESSING (ELW p. 221)

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *I want Jesus to walk with me* (325)

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. . .
Thanks be to God.

Commemorations this week Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156 Tuesday, February 23 Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.	In our prayers Missy Kevin Jim and Judy Danna Those who are suffering because of the Pandemic. For the vaccination effort in the US and across the globe. Diocesan Cycle St. Stephen's Episcopal, Longview St. Peter's Episcopal, Seaview All Saints' Episcopal, Vancouver Synod Cycle Elim Lutheran, Port Orchard First Lutheran, Port Orchard Congregational Cycle Carie & Don Kramer and Betty Kutter
This Week at St Christopher's Wednesday Faithful Living* 6:30am Prayer Service* 5:30pm Sunday Spoken Service* 8:00am Chronological Bible Study* 9:00am Service of the Word with Music* 10:30am *Online – See Fr. James or our website	About Zoom Meetings at St. Christopher's: We are using Zoom video conferencing software for meetings, studies, and other events at St. Christopher's. Zoom is available to use on your smart phone, computer, or you may use your telephone to dial in. See the website for a link to download the free software. You will need a "meeting code" or a link to join your desired event. We are posting those codes in the event descriptions found by going to our online calendar and clicking the event you wish to join. See our website for more details, FAQ, and troubleshooting.
Daily Scripture Lessons Regular time in scripture and prayer are some of the ways we grow as people of faith: here is a list of suggested daily readings to complement this week's readings in worship. They are taken from "Year B" in the book of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (pp. 1113-1143). Monday Psalm 77	Wednesday Psalm 77 Proverbs 30:1-9 Matthew 4:1-11 Thursday Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18 Romans 3:21-31 Friday

Job 4:1-21
Ephesians 2:1-10

Tuesday

Psalm 77
Job 5:8-27
1 Peter 3:8-18a

Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 16:1-6
Romans 4:1-12

Saturday

Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 16:7-15
Mark 8:27-30

Church Staff & Bishop's Council

Our staff and church volunteers are here to answer your questions, provide information and help you connect to Christ and this Christian community.

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