

# Worship in the Home

A resource provided by First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rush City, MN

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, 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.

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle and place a bowl of water in remembrance of your baptism.

Gathering Song

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust  
in God's eternal word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed  
and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves  
that we may know God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,  
and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns,  
we join in heaven's praise.

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

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.

<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."

Psalm 25:1-10

<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.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<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.

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.*

<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."

Sermon

Here are metaphors for how we are right now: We are in a flood, drowning. We are wandering in the wilderness, afraid of the wild beasts, and, if we are being tested, we fail. We are surrounded by death and that imprisons us. But Jesus Christ comes preaching and in the power of the Spirit he comes to us now. His

coming changes everything. Jesus has seen the dove coming, the end of the flood. Baptized into him, the Spirit comes to us, too. Jesus' resistance to the evil one turns our wildernesses into places of peace with all creation and places where the angels serve. Baptized into him, we see our world with new eyes and are given strength to resist evil and take joy in the creation. Jesus' cross and resurrection break open the captivity of death. Baptized into his death we are raised with him out of fear. The forty days of Lent invite us to remember again that we are baptized, to rejoice in God's rainbow covenant with all creatures, and to be ourselves part of the sign of God's love for the world.

Song of the Day

"Thy Holy Wings"

Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.

Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

Prayers

On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, responding to each petition with words echoing today's psalm, "In you we put our trust."

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship.

Receive our prayers, O righteous God:  
**In you we put our trust.**

Remembering Deaconess Elizabeth Fedde, we pray for all deacons and deaconesses, that they serve those in need with constancy and joy. Empower our congregation's ministries of care, and provide the funds needed for service.

Receive our prayers, O generous God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create.

Receive our prayers, O creative God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan and stem the might of tyrants the world over.

Receive our prayers, O sovereign God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern.

Receive our prayers, O warm-hearted God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: . . . We pray for all who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you. Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer.

Receive our prayers, O benevolent God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts.

Receive our prayers, O tender and mighty God:

**In you we put our trust.**

We praise you for the Christians of time past, especially Polycarp and all the martyrs who died in their witness to you. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things.

Receive our prayers, O splendid God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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.**

Blessing

**God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.  
Amen.**

Sending Song

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!

We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.

You ask who this may be?

The Lord of hosts is he!

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,

God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land

all threat'ning to devour us,

we tremble not, unmoved we stand;

they cannot overpower us.

Let this world's tyrant rage;

in battle we'll engage!

His might is doomed to fail;

God's judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
through life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

### Devotional Music Links

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through

Augsburg Fortress:

[I Want Jesus to Walk with Me](https://youtu.be/Ft_8EtPGTYs)

[https://youtu.be/Ft\\_8EtPGTYs](https://youtu.be/Ft_8EtPGTYs)

[Thy Holy Wings](https://youtu.be/TyN-vqNF8-s)

<https://youtu.be/TyN-vqNF8-s>

[As Your Spirit in the Desert](https://youtu.be/sYfAbUmU9Tc)

<https://youtu.be/sYfAbUmU9Tc>

### Readings for the Week

**Monday** Psalm 77

**Tuesday** (commemoration of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156) 1 Peter 3:8-18a

**Wednesday** Proverbs 30:1-9

**Thursday** (commemoration of Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921) Psalm 22:23-31

**Friday** Genesis 16:1-6

**Saturday** Mark 8:27-30

**Second Sunday in Lent** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;

Psalm 22:23-31;

Romans 4:13-25;

Mark 8:31-38

### Upcoming Commemorations

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

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.

**Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921**

**Thursday, February 25, 2021**

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
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"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"  
Text: based on Claudia F. Herniman, 1838-1898;  
para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816;  
arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House  
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"Thy Holy Wings"  
Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1,3;  
Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2, tr. composite  
Music: Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc.  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress  
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"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"  
Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship,  
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