

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church-E.L.C.A.



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.

First Sunday In Lent Sunday, February 21st, 2021

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 21st, 2021

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Intern Pastor:

Jaime Decker

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering

*Confessions and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins

Call To Worship

L: God meets us in the night— **C: Before the sun rises, Before the wound heals, Before there are answers, Before there is closure.**

L: God meets us in the light— **C: Where joy is effervescent, Where laughter is contagious, Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, And where people gather around the table.**

L: God meets us at the threshold— **C: At the edge of the water, At the beginning of the wilderness, At the start of something new, On the edge of faith.**

L: And if God meets us in all those places, Then surely God meets us in between—

C: Staying with us through the wilderness.

L: We are not alone. God is all around. **C: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

Call To Confession

L: 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.

Prayer of Confession

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

C: 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."

L: 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.

C: 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.

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

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

L: You are the God who meets us where we are.

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

Words of Forgiveness

L: 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.

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

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 every moment be lived within thy grace.

***Prayer For Illumination**

L: Holy God, C: If I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands. No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through— Like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart. This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more. So as we prepare to read scripture, I pray that once again, you would meet us here. Meet us in our hope and our heartache. Meet us in our fear and our joy, Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists. And even if the water keeps running, And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity, Or a tangible sense that you are near; Even if we do not hear the words, “This is my beloved,” Ringing in our ears, We will trust that you are near, Always and forever meeting us here, Running toward our hearts. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Word**First Reading****Genesis 9:8-17**

⁸Then God 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.” R:The Word of the Lord C:Thanks be to God

Psalm**(Please Read Responsively)****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. ¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.
R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

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

¹⁸For 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, 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.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:9-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to _____

C: 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."

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

Thy Holy Wings

Verse 2

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.

***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.

*Prayers of Intercession

Response: Your Mercy Is Great

Offering (Offering Plates are in the back of the Sanctuary, please drop offering there)

* Offering Prayer

C: 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.

Meal

Holy Communion

***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.**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the highest.

*Words of Institution

***Lord's Prayer**

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

***Invitation to Communion**

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

***Lamb of God**

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

*Post Communion Blessing

*** Post Communion Prayer**

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Sending

*Benediction

***Sending Hymn**

Thy Holy Wings

Verse 3

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.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the good news. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

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