

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT HOLY COMMUNION

21 February 2021

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP “As the Sun with Longer Journey”

1. As the sun with longer journey melts the winter’s snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ’s uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

READ

Pastor: During the season of Lent, we are called to return to God with all our heart.
Therefore, let us be honest with ourselves and with God as we prepare to
worship.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Pastor: Gracious God,

**People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and
give us strength to turn from all sin and to serve you in newness of life.
Amen**

Pastor: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the
death and resurrection of Christ, ✠ God forgives us all our sins. Almighty
God, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen

OPENING HYMN “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

1. O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.
2. You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust
in God’s eternal word.
3. 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.
4. Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven’s praise.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

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THE KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **God, you know better than we the temptations that will bring us down. Grant that our love for you may protect us from everything that would lead us away from you. And when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

From A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia o Aotearoa. Used by permission.

WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM **“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”** **trad. Spiritual**

THE FIRST LESSON **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.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God,
for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.

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THE 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.

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CHILDREN’S TIME

THE SERMON **Pastor Melinda Wagner**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When We Are Tested”

1. When we are tested
and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when
the world offers stone,
nourish us, God,
by your word and your way,
food that sustains us
by night and by day.
2. When in the desert
we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked
by certain belief,
lift us to love you
beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence,
our only true rest.
3. When we are tempted
to barter our souls,
trading the truth for
the pow’r to control,
teach us to worship
and praise only you,
seeking your will in
the work that we do.
4. When we have struggled
and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting
the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us
with circles of care,
angels of healing,
of hope, and of prayer.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we seek in this Lenten time to grow in our faith, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all those in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O merciful God, and lead us in your way of life.

People: Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

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* **SETTING THE TABLE**

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.

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...

...to whom be honor and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen

THE 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

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.. The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray. Compassionate God,

People: **your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May Almighty God, Creator, Savior ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

“You Are the Way”

1. You are the way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.
2. You are the truth; your word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.
3. You are the life; the rending tomb
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death nor hell shall harm.
4. You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**