

February 21, 2021
First Sunday of
Lent

Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield
St. John's, Mahone Bay

Prepared By Pastor Brooklynn Lane



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Sunday, February 21, 2021

Service of the Word

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP – (submitted by Gill LeFevre)

As darkness gives way to light

and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life,

stirring beneath the soil,

We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance,

We affirm our identity, beloved, children of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Three in one God,

Creator, Child, and Holy Spirit,

We give thanks for your mercy and ask for forgiveness.

Amen.

Loving God,

Forgive us.

We have neglected to see the face of Christ in our neighbour.
We have walked past the person begging on the street and neglected to recognize their humanity.
We have become estranged from humanity, forgetting the web of life connects us all.

Forgive us.

We are quick to anger, to cast judgement, and our words pierce like swords when we speak from these places.

We let fear, doubt, and unknowingness guide our actions.

Forgive us.

We confess our self-centeredness, need to succeed, and capitalistic-like thinking has turned us from you and your message of justice and love.

Forgive us.

God who meets us in the face of each person we meet,
Who paints the sky with colours that calm the soul,
Who creates a soundscape of rushing rivers,
Who gives grace to the world through the winds of the Holy Spirit,
Open our hearts to be transformed and changed.
You are forgiven.
Through the love of God, in the name of God, your sins are forgiven.
Baptism remains forever.
God's love is here!

Inspiring God, guide us to be agents of change, knowing that our decisions, our actions and inactions affect all people. Help us to have the courage and strength to move forward, to let our hearts and minds be overflowing with love, grace, and a deep awareness that you are with us, guiding us on the journey. Compassionate God, Three in one. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God Loved the World - Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 323
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8amy5Q04gc>

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Holy God, heavenly Creator, 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, on God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Genesis 9: 8-17 (NRSV)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 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. 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.' 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: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 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. 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.' 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.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM - Psalm 25:1-10 (NRSV)

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

Show me your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

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.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

Remember 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.

You are gracious and upright, O Lord;

therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You lead the lowly in justice

and teach the lowly your way.

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 (NRSV)

For 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 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 people, were saved through water. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING – Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV)

The holy gospel according to Mark

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #613

Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3u70BXaAnY>

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. * On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

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.

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Maori Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,
Source of all that is and shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!
With the bread that we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love,
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #325
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfzInWBEe6E>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are Beloved.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mid Week **Lenten Services** will begin on February 24 @ 7pm at St. John's
- Our **Cancellation Policy** states that in the event of inclement weather, the Chairperson of council in consultation with Pastor Brooklynn, will make a determination by 9:30 a.m. An announcement will be made on CKBW and on our Facebook page.
- **Souper Sundays:** SOUP-portioning the Three Churches. Feb 28 Beef Barley prepared by St. John's. Pick up 10 am-1pm Sunday Feb 28 @ Trinity United. Cost: \$12 for 1 Litre container. For more information call 902 521 1519.
- **Camp Mush-a-Mush:** The camp is in the process of purchasing a new Ride-on-Mower . If anyone is interested to make a donation towards this much needed mower please call the church office at 902 624 9660.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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