LENT IV SERVICE OF THE WORD March 22, 2020



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

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ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH March 22, 2020

Gathering

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you. All life is sustained by you, our Source. We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"As the Deer"



GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Word

FIRST READING: Job 38: 1 - 4, 8 - 11, 16 - 18

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? — ⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, ¹¹and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?

¹⁶"Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? ¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.

P: Word of God, word of life.C: *Thanks be to God*.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1: 6 - 10

⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

P: Word of God, word of life.C: *Thanks be to God*.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14: 22 - 33

P: The Holy Gospel as it is recorded in Matthew. **C:** *Glory to you, O Lord.*

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The gospel of the Lord.C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

REFLECTION

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

W& P 95



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

P: Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

Send your Holy Spirit upon your church. Awaken in us renewed commitment to our baptismal promises: to build community, to worship together, to share our faith, to serve others, and to work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God. **C:** *Your mercy is great.*

P: Forgive us for the ways we have caused creation to suffer. Inspire creativity as we explore new ways of reducing our consumption of earth's resources. Restore forests and waterways. Replenish the habitats of all endangered and threatened species. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Call all nations to the repentance that leads to life. Empower legislators to craft laws reflecting your commandments to love and serve. Bless police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and first responders who put themselves at risk to care for others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Make your home among us and shelter us from storms of death, mourning, crying, and pain. Draw near to those who weep and to those who are lonely. Restore health and wholeness to those who suffer *(especially)*. Hear us, O God. **C:** *Your mercy is great.*

P: We give you thanks for those who carry out the ministry of hospitality: greeters, ushers, those who make coffee and bake cookies, all who welcome newcomers and care for children, and all who extend a hand of peace to neighbors. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You promise new life for all the faithful departed *(especially)*. Renew us in faith and hope until the day death is no more, when you will dwell with us in the new heaven and earth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **C:** *Amen.*

SHARING OF PEACE

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

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. **C:** *Amen.*

OFFERING HYMN

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

ELW 752

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: 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,

- C: we give you thanks and praise.
- **P:** 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,
- C: we give you thanks and praise.
- **P:** 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,
- C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BLESSING

P: The blessing of the living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

ELW 536

God Be with You Till We Meet Again



DISMISSALP: Go in peace. Share the good news.**C:** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

VISION STATEMENT

We are a diverse and inclusive Lutheran faith community freed by the grace of Christ to find God and self as we connect with our neighbours. We **practise** hospitality of open hearts and open arms. We **unite** with partners to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We **nurture** community of Christ.

REMINDERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our prayers

Rodney Erlandson, Melody Hogeveen, Mary Hughes, Al Jacksteit, Mark Kieswetter, Kylie Mahoney, Fran Moore, Marion Morningstar, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, Lesley Powell, Sydney Ross, Helen Scollnik, and Elga Smidt.

HOLIDAYS: Pastor Tuula has cancelled her holiday due to restrictions from COVID-19.

Monday, March 23rd: Deadline for submission of articles/photos for our LIFE newsletter, April issue.

EASTER FLOWERS: Please place an order today online using Canadahelps, Youth Fund. Order forms are available in the weekly email.



Lenten Box Outreach Project: Just a reminder for those of you who are taking part in this mission project for the 40 days of Lent, to please bring your Lenten Box back to church on Easter, with your envelope number and name on it. We will be putting this money towards a Gift From the Heart from Lutheran World Relief.