

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Jim Hicks-Interim Pastor  
Trey Davis-Musician Tyler Wood-Video  
First Sunday in Lent, February 21st, 2021

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.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW # 504

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious,  
Who 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 alone 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 judgement must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God, our Lord, fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,

though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!  
Music and text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

*Please stand.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Pastor:* We go with Jesus into the wilderness.

*People:* **We feel the need to get away to reflect and to pray.**

*Pastor:* We stay with Jesus in the wilderness.

*People:* **We sense the power of the Tempter calling us to the easy, self-serving way.**

*Pastor:* We endure with Jesus in the wilderness,

*People:* **aware of a Supportive Presence showing us a faithful way, a compassionate path.**

*Pastor:* We return with Jesus from the wilderness,

*People:* **renewed in body, mind, and spirit, ready to be about God's work.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Pastor:* God hears your silently offered prayers and stands ready to bring you a fresh start as members of the family of God.

*People:* **We will renew our faith and practice; we will begin again with joy and determination.**

*Pastor:* God stands ready to help you as you rededicate yourself to the Christian way. Pardon and peace are yours!

*People:* **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Pastor:* 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

#### 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.

*Reader:* Word of God, word of life.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 50:1-6**

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<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 compassion 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  
goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

*Please stand.*

**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.*

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

*People:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

CHILDREN'S TIME (*in place*)

**Jesus Loves Me!**

Jesus loves me this I know, for the bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong, we are weak and He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The bible tells me so.

*Public domain*

**I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N**

I am a C  
I am a C-H  
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N  
And I have C-H-R-I-S-T  
In my H-E-A-R-T  
And I will L-I-V-E-E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y

*Public domain*

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

**Lord Listen To Your Children Praying**

Lord listen to your children prayin'  
Lord send your spirit in this place  
Lord listen to your children prayin'  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.  
Text and Music Ken Medema©1973 Hope Publishing Company

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

**Thy Holy Wings**

**ELW # 613**

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.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
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*Please stand.*

With the baptized of every time and place we profess the faith with the words of  
the Apostles' Creed.

#### APOSTLES' 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 will come again 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

*INTERCESSORY PRAYERS*

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

*A brief silence.*

*Reader:* 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.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction (*especially . . . here local environmental concerns may be named*). Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* 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.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* 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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* 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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially:

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enrich her with a sense of your grace and comfort. Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* We pray for the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, our Bishop, and Peace Lutheran in Cyril, OK, that together we will boldly proclaim your Good News in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures. Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* For those we know and love who serve in our military and their families. We pray that you watch over them and keep them safe bringing them home safely, especially: Evan Bias, Robert Marulli, Kaitlyn Tschida, Adam Shepherd, David Powell, Robert Woodrey, Nick Coleman, Mark Pritchard, James Wagoner, Jonathan Wagoner, Shawn Werchan, Kevin Spurgin, Daniel Picazo, Michael Morton, Daniel Mock, Dustin Miller, Rudy Palomares, Tyler Starkey, Jonathan Young, Austin Watlington, Yahola Jones, John Winsworth, James Winsworth, Justin Smith, Kobe Coker, John Burns III, Garrick West, Logan West, Brenden Salvador, and Jordyn Scott. Hear us, O God.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* 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.

*People:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Reader:* We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* **Amen.**

*The WAVE of PEACE is shared at this time.*

*People may greet one another, in the name of the Lord, while staying at their seats.*

*Reader:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Pastor:* Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord... Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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**

OPEN COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*Pastor:* The blessings and body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.

*People:* **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

**Change My Heart Oh God**

Change my heart oh God  
Make it ever true  
Change my heart oh God  
May I be like You (*repeat*)

You are the Potter  
I am the clay  
Mold me and make me  
This is what I pray (*repeat*)  
By Eddie Espinosa

BLESSING

*Pastor:* God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

*People:* **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

*Pastor:* Go in peace. Share the good news.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Pastor:* Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Pastor:* Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
that we may show forth your glory in the world.  
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

*Pastor:* Almighty God have Mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the  
power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

*People:* **Amen.**