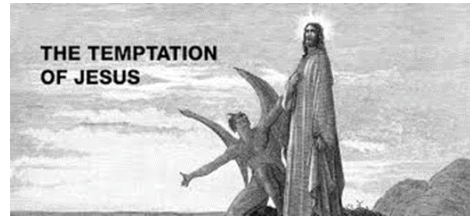


**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021**



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *"Come Now is the Time to Worship" Maranatha! Music You Tube*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USQn4IUms20>

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

P: **Amen.**

L: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

P: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as hearers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

P: **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

**SONG: "My Feet Are on the Rock" (I Am They Official Music Video) - YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uYiHiJTN6Y>

### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 25: 1-10

<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.

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

<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.

### GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:9-15

<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 Jesus 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 Jesus 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 dominion of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."



**PREACHING TEXT: Genesis 9:8-17**

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>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: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>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.”



**SERMON: “God Must Be Looking At The Rainbow”     Pastor Jerome Evavold**

**SONG: “One Thing Remains” Maranatha! Music (Lyric Video) - YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=234MrMdWo8E>

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE 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 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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONGS: “Take My Life” Norton Hall Band—You Tube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Nu5EZemDbg>

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, responding to each petition with words echoing today’s psalm, “In you we put our trust.”

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship. Receive our prayers, O righteous God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create. Receive our prayers, O creative God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Receive our prayers, O sovereign God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern. Receive our prayers, O warm-hearted God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: . . .

**Ronald Lundin**

We pray for all who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you.

Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer. Receive our prayers, O benevolent God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts.

*A longer period of silence.*

Receive our prayers, O tender and mighty God:

**In you we put our trust.**

We praise you for the Christians of time past, especially today we remember **Joanne DeRosier** and hold the **DeRosier family** in our prayers. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things. Receive our prayers, O splendid God:

**In you we put our trust.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**P: 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.**

**LENTEN PRAYER**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE 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 SONG: “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” The Petersens (LIVE) - YouTube**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf\\_wlFwBIMc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf_wlFwBIMc)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, share the Good News.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**AFTER THOUGHTS**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Secure Even When It's Not Safe**

The world is unsafe in countless ways. It contains wilderness after wilderness, places where temptation and danger seem to reign. Struggle, pain, fear, violence, hate, death, and suffering are all part of the uncertain world that we wake to each day.

Today, the Gospel of Mark discusses Jesus' own encounter with the wilderness. After he was baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus was driven into the desert wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. What's more, when Jesus left the wilderness to re-enter society, he encountered another kind of dangerous wilderness, a world where John the Baptist had just been arrested for confronting Herod Antipas and his wife Herodias with some hard-hitting truth.

After forty days of temptation, Jesus was met by yet another temptation: to play it safe in a world that had just silenced his friend for doing exactly the kind of thing that Jesus came to do. Despite the risk posed by worldly power players like Herod, Jesus proceeded to teach, heal, and spread the good news of God's kingdom. Despite the danger, Jesus trusted in the promise that God's love was bigger than the wilderness of human wiles.

The world is not safe, and believing in Jesus does not change this fact. However, we are secure in an unsafe world because of the promises made by God in baptism. Think of children who are secure in the love of their parents. They may go to school and face bullies—a painful experience, for sure—but they are less likely to trust the lies of the bullies because they know a deeper truth about themselves, a truth instilled by the love of their parents. So it is with us. There is danger and wilderness all around, but we are secure in the truth of our baptism: we are God's beloved children, with whom God is well pleased. Grounded in this secure love, we derive courage to set out into the wild.

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