

**St Paul's and St. Matthias Lutheran Churches
Service of the Word
February 21, 2021**

P: Pastor **V:** Vicar **C:** Congregation **VC:** Voice of Congregation **WA:** Worship Asst.

PRELUDE (Played by Will Goetze)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (VC: Read by Matthew Brockmeier)

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

**VC: Fountain of living water,
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 healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.**

P: 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.
Amen.

GATHERING

V: You are invited to sing along while muted at home.

GATHERING SONG “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” ELW # 697
(Sung by Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barb Christ and Rob Toth)

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1. I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*
2. Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*
3. When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

GREETING

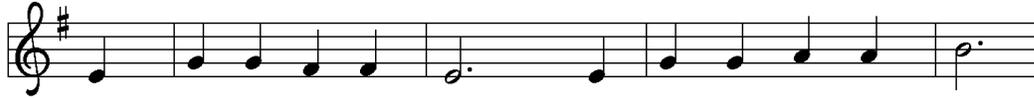
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

V: And also with you.

KYRIE

(Played by Will Goetze and you are invited to sing while muted at home.) ELW p. 203

(Sung by Gretchen Bush, Janice Fernow and Miguel Acta)



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

V: 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.

WORD

READING: Genesis 9:8-17 (Read by Diane Harrop)

WA: A reading from the book of Genesis the ninth chapter.

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

WA: Word of God, word of life.

V: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10 (WA: *Read by Dennis Latson* (VC: *Read by Deb Horn*)

WA: ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

VC: ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

WA: ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

VC: ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

WA: ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

VC: ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

WA: ⁷Remember 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.

VC: ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

WA: ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

VC: ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Return to the Lord” *ELW pg. 142*

(*Played by Fremont Ogle*) (Sung by *Carlee Layton*)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15 *(Read by Jane Cuccia)*

WA: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

V: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

WA: The gospel of the Lord.

V. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED *(Read by LaDelle Daly)*

V: With all Christians around the world we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**VC: 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

*(WA: **When reading the prayer list petition, please read 1st names only.)*

(WA: Read by Bill Horne) (VC: Read by JoDee Hub)

Invitation to Prayer

WA: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Prayer

WA: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. We praise You for being patient and loving toward us and for saving us in our desperation and darkness through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 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.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: We give thanks for everyone involved in the extensive effort to vaccinate people against COVID-19 even as we work to prevent its spread and treat those who are ill. We pray that the hope and the emotional, spiritual and physical stamina of these workers will be sustained for the long haul. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: All Your paths are filled with 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.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: As Jesus was sent into the wilderness, may we also be in that wilderness as we begin the Lenten journey. Even in the wilderness You are with us. Help us find joy in Your presence as we journey in the wilderness of life. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: Guide now the people of Your Church, that following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world to the glory of the world to come. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: Give wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in Your church, that, by their service, faith may abound and Your kingdom increase.

Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: We cannot fully comprehend Your ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. We ask that You keep us alert and receptive to what You are revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.

Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: You are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially: Herb and Teresa (*Schaepering*), Mary (*Cramer*), Lou (*Saugstad*), Charles and Audry (*Klien*), Michael (*Perron*) and sons, Barbara (*Christ*), Dawn (*Miller*), Barbara Ann (*Shepherd*), Steve (*Wren*), Christina, James (*Glass*), Emmy (*Volenberg*), Marcia (*Engler*), Karen (*Braaksma*), Ken (*Pheasant*), Sharon (*Matusiak*), Ed (*Fiordigigli*), Judy (*Wylde*), John (*Gannon*), Pastor Dale (*Erickson*), Leilani (*Gabrielle*) and all others whom we name now aloud or in our hearts. **(Prayer leaders will pause and you are invited to unmute your mic and offer prayers.)**

WA: Support caregivers who attend to all in need. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: You are love and You call us to love one another. Call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to You, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

VC: Amen.

STEWARDING GOD'S CREATION

V: Siblings in Christ, God's ancient, steadfast love is not a love that simply waits for us to stop wandering and return home. God's love comes seeking us and gives us the gift of Jesus so that we might have life abundant. Our offerings this morning whether we have been lost and wandering, secure and safe, or anywhere in between, expresses our firm conviction that God is with us, no matter what. Offerings are an act of worship. Let us offer them to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

Offerings that are discerned to be offered to the Lord through the church of St. Matthias may be mailed to the Post Office Box. Offerings that are discerned to be offered to the Lord through the church of St. Paul's may be mailed to the church office or given online at the St. Paul's website. Let us prayerfully give our offerings.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "As The Deer"

(Sung by Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barb Christ and Rob Toth)

OFFERING

To give your offering to St. Matthias, mail your offering to P.O. Box 1685 Safety Harbor, FL 34695. To give your offerings to St. Paul's mail your offering to 407 S. Saturn Ave. Clearwater, FL 33755 or give online at www.stpaulsclearwater.org

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (VC: *Linda Johnson*)

V. Gracious God, who has named and claimed us,
calling us your beloved children,
you know the secrets of our hearts.
When we sin and stray from your paths,
you astound us with your saving grace.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

V. Loving Jesus, living Word,
in you the kingdom of God has come near;
through you all that was lost has been found.
Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead,
trusting your promise that we need not fear,
for you are with us.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

V. Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell,
into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news.
Guide us to love and serve Jesus,
giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (VC: *Read by Dave Meeks*) (*Bell Ringer, Carol Dunn.*)

V: Let us pray,
All will be muted. A bell will be rung to represent the magnitude of and joining together of our voices.

**VC: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
Bell

Give us this day our daily bread;
Bell

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;**

Bell

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Bell

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Bell

BLESSING

P: 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.

P: You are invited to sing along while muted at home.

SENDING SONG “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” ELW #319

(Sung by Linda Johnson, Dave Meeks, Bill Horne and Miguel Acta)

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.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

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