

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
March 6, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome Assistant to the Bishop: This morning we welcome Rev. Adam Snook, who serves the Synod in the areas of Communication, Mission, and Congregational Support.
- Annual Meeting: Today, immediately following the service, we will remain in the Sanctuary for the Annual Meeting. All members are asked to stay for discussion and voting on important congregational matters. Quorum is twenty-five voting members.
- Food Bank Collection: Today marks the beginning of the spring Peanut Butter food bank collection. Donations collected in the baskets provided will be shared with the Woolwich Food Bank.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love and help us to love our neighbour. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

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, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1. Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.
2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors; your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.
3. Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

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

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before

the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty - **you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.”** Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation, **no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.** For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent. **I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.** They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honour them. **With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the

devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is God’s Word for us today. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Adam Snook, Assistant To The Bishop, Eastern Synod

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

1. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
2. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
3. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.
4. I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. Amen.

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the Word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all labourers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. We give our sadness and concern for the people of Ukraine under attack. We pray for the people of Russia, as they watch their leader's attempt to conquer their neighbours. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick especially Lloyd, Ken, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, Carol and those we name in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly and this whole congregation as we gather to consider the mission and ministry you have planned for this church. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have died. Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ☩ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

EvLW # 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he 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.
2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself 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.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
4. God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honour, child, or spouse,
through life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The congregation is asked to sign in on the Annual Meeting attendance record. Extra Annual meeting reports are available on the back table. Please sit near the front so all can hear s we begin.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Mar 07	1 Chronicles 21:1-17	1 John 2:1-6	Psalm 17
Tue	Mar 08	Zechariah 3:1-10	2 Peter 2:4-21	Psalm 17
Wed	Mar 09	Job 1:1-22	Luke 21:34—22:6	Psalm 17
Thu	Mar 10	Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18	Philippians 3:2-12	Psalm 27
Fri	Mar 11	Genesis 14:17-24	Philippians 3:17-20	Psalm 27
Sat	Mar 12	Psalm 118:26-29	Matthew 23:37-39	Psalm 27
Sun	Mar 13	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Luke 13:31-35	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Psalm 27 (5)

*From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
OneLicense # A-736427 / CCLI #2728030*