



GATHERING

Note: Congregational responses in bold type.

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

PRELUDE

Prelude, BWV 846

Johann Sebastian Bach

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

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.

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.
Amen.

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 \ddagger forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

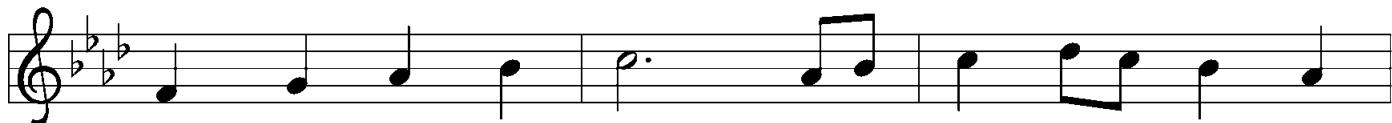
O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

Hymn 319

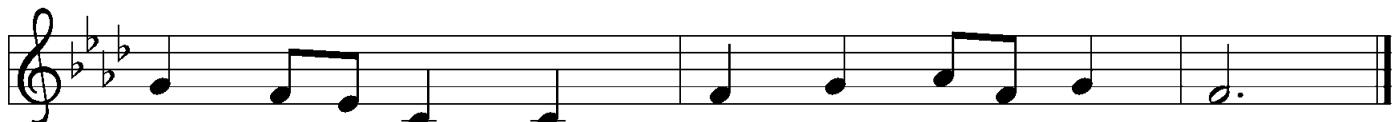
v. 1 & 2



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lamb of God

Paris

Marcia Stinson, Clarinet

WORD

FIRST READING: GENESIS 9:8-17

OT 7

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 25: 1-10

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

¹To you, O LORD,

 I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,**

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;

 rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,**

and teach me your paths.

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.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,**

for they are from everlasting.

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.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;**

therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice

 and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All 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

NT 207

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.

¹⁸Christ 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, ¹⁹in

which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,²⁰who 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.²¹And 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,²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord

Page 142



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.

GOSPEL: MARK 1: 9-15

NT 30

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Talsness

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings

HYMN 613

Follows on the next page.

v. 1 & 2



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

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

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

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APOSTLE'S 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

Response after each prayer: Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Response at end: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Page 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal and be fed.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

(Communion will be distributed by Pastor Talsness. See the Announcements section for details about the process. For those who prefer grape juice, please indicate that to Pastor when he approaches your row.)

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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 \dagger that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Follows on the next page.

Hymn 325

v. 1 & 2

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sonatina

George Benda

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today by Judy Lawrence *in honor of her parents* and by Peggy & Parker Pearson *in honor of Peggy's birthday*.

THE ETERNAL CANDLE is given this month by Patty & Clarke Field *in celebration of life & all its blessings*.

LENT PRAYER GUIDE AVAILABLE

Pastor Talsness has written a prayer guide for Lent. For each day of Lent there is a theme, scripture, and a prayer focus. Pick up a hard copy from the Narthex table.

LENTEN DAILY DEVOTION VIDEOS-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Messiah is looking for members who would be willing to record a short 1-2-minute video for daily devotions during Lent. A theme and scriptural passage will be assigned. We will take care of the technology; we just need people willing to read scripture and say a prayer. Please contact the office to sign up (messiahsk@gmail.com; 912.598.1188). Lent begins February 17.

LENTEN HUNGER WALK

This week the "focus" of your walk is to include learning a new Bible verse. During your walk, try to be intentional in doing this task. Ask God to be with you as you walk. Enjoy your time!

If you want to be included, call or email the church office (912.598.1188; messiahsk@gmail.com) to be added to our list. Then, get out there and enjoy the spring weather!! If you would like to participate by "sponsoring" a walker, send in a check!! We'll make sure it is added in.



40-40-40
Lenten Hunger Walk
February 17 - April 3, 2021
40 Days. 40 Miles. \$40
Sign up at
ELCA-SES.org
TODAY!
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

EASTER LILIES AND CALADIUMS 2021

Lent is here, and Easter is just a few weeks away. To celebrate Easter, Messiah's Sanctuary will be brimming with Easter lilies and caladiums. We invite you to give a lily or a caladium in honor or memory of a loved one. The dedications will be listed in the Easter bulletin. The cost is \$13 per plant. To order, please pick up an envelope from the stand next to the entrance to the Sanctuary or on the table in the Narthex, fill in the form, enclose your check, and return it to the Church Office or in the offering plate by March 22.



OUTREACH GOAL EXCEEDED!!

86 COATS AND JACKETS have been collected. The first batch of coats were blessed on Sunday and will be distributed to our brothers and sisters downtown on Monday. A special thank you to all of Messiah and friends of Messiah members.

WE will continue to collect jackets/coats until February 28th. The box will remain in the Narthex. BLESSINGS to you all.

DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS

The PLARNERS need more bags!!! Please gather them up (ask your neighbors) and bring them to the church! We have an active Wednesday group that needs to stay busy! This helps the environment and is a great gift to the homeless of Savannah.

SECOND HARVEST

For the month of February, we are collecting SOUP!!!

MARCH FLOWER DONATIONS

This is the date available to donate flowers for worship next month: March 28 (2 vases). You can sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you are not currently able to attend church, contact Sandy Cooper (messiahsk@gmail.com or 912.598.1188).



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Elizabeth A. Eaton
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Organist	Diane Boyd
Choral Director	Mary Maner
Altar Guild	Pat Cooper
Reader	Ron Whitaker

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Barry Jones 02/23, Eilish Nobes 02/26, Pat Cooper 02/27

Anniversaries: Teresa & Frank Camizzi 02/21, Diana & Geoff Wilson 02/23

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

REMINDERS FOR THIS TIME OF COVID-19

If you are ill, have a fever, or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 in the past two weeks, please stay home. If you cannot follow these requirements, enjoy the taped worship service at home.

- Please always wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer will be available outside, in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Keep your physical distance:
 - Follow the markers outside.
 - Greet people outside. No handshakes or hugs.
 - No socializing inside.
- Place your offering in the offering plates on stands as you enter the Sanctuary.
- Sit in your reserved seat. An usher will accompany to your seat, and your bulletin will be in your seat.
- Pew materials have been removed.
- Although there will be music, please do not sing.
- Speak the responses softly.
- If Holy Communion is served, there will be a special process for distribution.
- We will not pass the peace.
- Pastor Jason will coordinate dismissal by rows beginning at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- You are welcome to bring a water bottle.
- There is no coffee social, and all meeting rooms are closed.
- Restrooms are open, but please use them one person or family at a time.