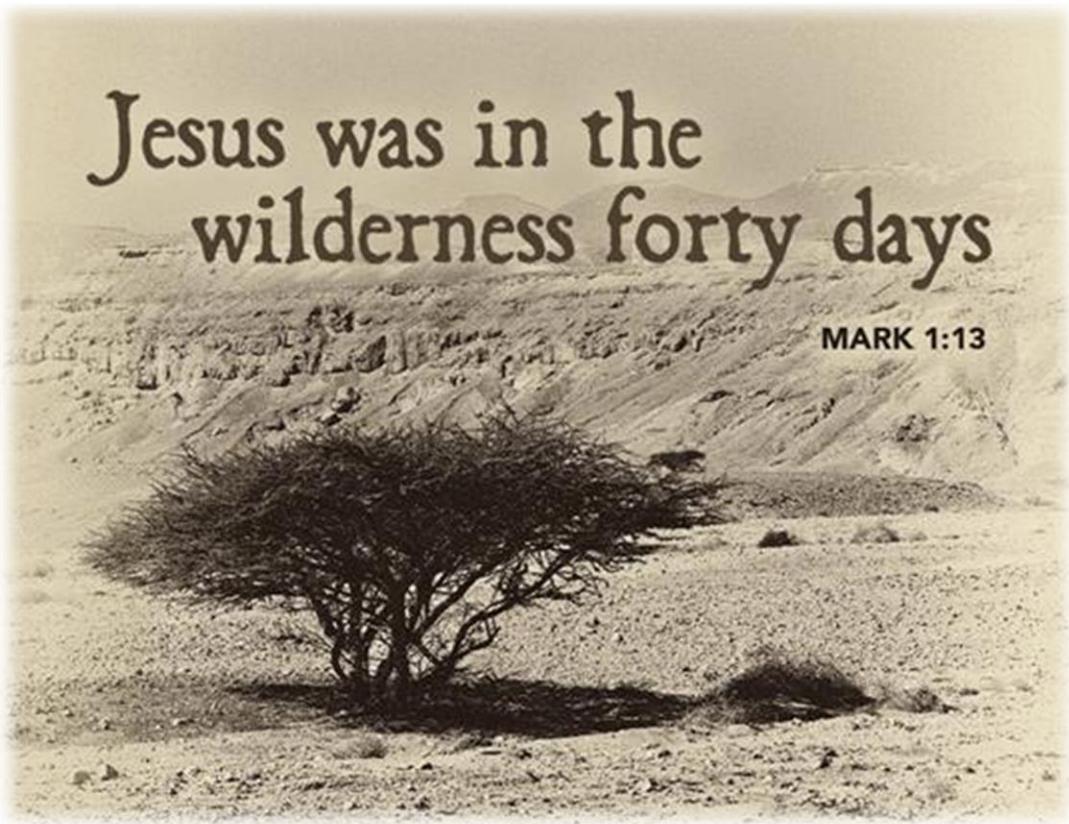




SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR  
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\div$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\div$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the  
 2. And let all who seek, let them come to the  
 3. And let all who toil, let them come to the  
 4. And let all the poor, let them come to the

wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,  
 wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,  
 wa - ter. And let all who are wea - ry,  
 wa - ter. Bring the ones who are lad - en,

let them come to the Lord: With - out mon - ey,  
 let them come to the Lord: With - out mon - ey,  
 let them come to the Lord: All who la - bor,  
 bring them all to the Lord: Bring the chil - dren

with-out price. Why should you pay the price,  
 with-out strife. Why should you spend your life,  
 with-out rest. How can your soul find rest,  
 with-out might. Eas - y the load and light:

3 ex - cept for the Lord?  
 ex - cept for the Lord?  
 ex - cept for the Lord?  
 γ come to the Lord.

4

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

*A reading from Genesis.*

<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.”

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

<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 LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

*A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter.*

<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.

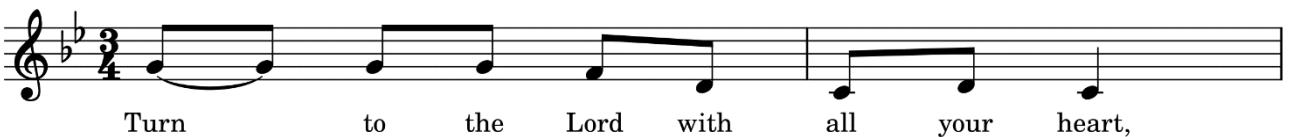
*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

LENTEN ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

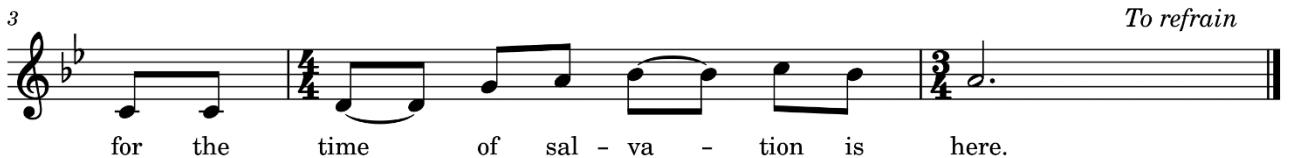
*Refrain*



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end-less glo - ry!



Turn to the Lord with all your heart,



for the time of sal - va - tion is here.

*To refrain*

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark, from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. 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.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

Pastor Rachel Hoffman

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

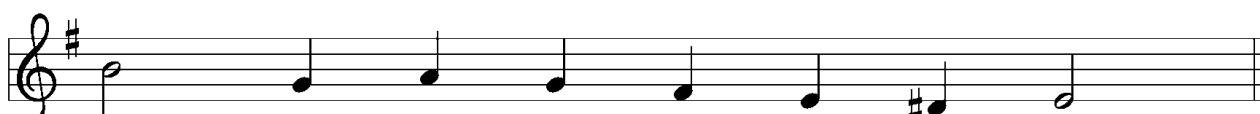
ELW 517



1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son  
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal ly.  
 and lead us out of death to life.

## APOSTLES' CREED

We now profess the faith we share, using the words of 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

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.  
**Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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, Wayne, Scott, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Julie, Bob, Neal, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, John, Bea, Jack, Eric, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent forth his peace long ago, and it has continued to flow through generations of faithful followers. Today, his peace continues in you. The Peace of Christ is with you.

**And also with you. Amen.**

*At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.*

*Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!*

## OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“I Can Only Imagine”

Craig Allen, tenor

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(Stand)*

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Holy and generous God, empower us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

We unite our voices in this time, joining in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,  
hal - low - ed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy  
will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.  
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -  
give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who  
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -  
ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
*All:*  
For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours,  
now and for ev - er - more. A - men.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER FOR A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Living together in these days and wearied by all they demand of us; we lift our prayers and hopes to God.

**Healing Lord, you know the pain of your people. We pray for those who suffer from this pandemic. Give strength to the sick, to care providers, and to those who are harmed in any way. Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Bless us with effective vaccines that are available to all. Make us witnesses for you in this time, so that we, your people, become a sign of Emmanuel. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, <sup>+</sup> Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

ELW 325

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first three staves are in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The fourth staff begins with a G clef, 2/4 time, and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are as follows:

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.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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