

First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

*And a voice came
“from heaven,
You are my Son,
the Beloved;
with you I am
well pleased.”*

Mark 1:11, NRSV



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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey” ELW #326
(Vs. 1 & 2)

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

ELW page 203

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 MESSAGE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING—Genesis 9:8-17

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."

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 25:1-10

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.

**⁶Remember, 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.

**⁸You 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

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.

Word of God. Word of Life
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Return to the Lord, your God

ELW page 142

The Holy Gospel according to the first chapter of Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Mark 1:9-15

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.

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

MESSAGE

Rev. Samuel Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

"When We Are Tested" ACS #922
(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

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

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse.

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

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling especially those on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

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

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace.

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

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN—*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW #186

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 144

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, holy, holy ELW page 144

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"The Glory of These Forty Days" ELW #320
(Vs. 1 & 4)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Services will be held at Zion UCC. A meal will be served starting at 5:30pm. Worship at 6:30pm and Learning will be held at 7:00pm. All are welcome!

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
2-11-2024	\$792	\$4,548
YTD	\$23,776	\$31,835

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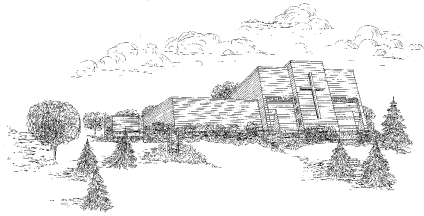
Songselect Advanced—Expires 6/30/2024

Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2024

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2024



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, February 18	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
Monday, February 19	6:00pm	Church Council
Tuesday, February 20	10:00a 10:15a	Coffee/Mary Unit Bible Study/Mary Unit
Wednesday, February 21	5:30p 6:30p 7:00p	Lenten Meal at Zion UCC Lenten Worship at Zion UCC Learning at Zion UCC Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, February 22	6:30p	Adult Bible Study @ Next Chapter Winery
Sunday, February 25	9:00a 10:00a	Worship Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

February 18, 2024		February 25, 2024	
Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller	Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick	First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Evelyn Haemig	Acolytes:	Vance Vanden Einde
Reader:	Rachel Wagner	Reader:	Nikki Kiemele
Usher:	Bob & Joan Reasoner	Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Edrie Barton Rachel Wagner	Greeters:	LeRoy & Joan May
Communion Asst:	Edrie Barton Rachel Wagner	Council Member:	Miles Heille
Council Member:	Nick Pollack	Fellowship:	
Fellowship:		Projection:	Tech Team
Projection:	Tech Team	Audio:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team	Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Videographer:	Becky Pollack	Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson Bob Bartle
Offering Counters:	Randy Baum John Miller	Altar Guild:	Jan Rhode
Altar Guild:	Jan Rhode		