
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR

* = Please stand as you are comfortable.

Bold type indicates congregational responses.

- **Welcome!**
- *Leave your offering in the plate at the entrance. The offering can be received before, during, or after the service. To give electronically, go to richfield-lutheran.org/give*

The story of Jesus being led into the wilderness and tempted for forty days is the Gospel for the 1st Sunday in Lent. It echoes the forty years the formerly enslaved Israelites wandered in the wilderness before reaching new fertile land. These faithful stories ground us in the forty days of reflection, confession, prayer, and acts of mercy encouraged in the season. Amid the temptations and trials, Jesus remains faithful to his calling and his beloved identity gifted to him by God. So, too, we experience God's faithfulness to us amid turmoil and struggle.

I. GATHERING

PRELUDE

(The prelude gathers us in the Lord's presence. You are invited to center through it.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Genesis 1 & 2 | 2 Corinthians 6 (adapted)

Formed from the dust, to dust we shall return

Yet, created in God's image, we gather in God's name

Today is the day of God's mercy. Now is the time of salvation!

Restore, redeem, and renew us, O God.

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you. We can lack in showing others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We tend to fall short of welcoming in the grace you grant to all people. We benefit from oppression of

others, even while you proclaim freedom. We squander gifts of the creation in short-sighted selfishness. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven, and you have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW #774

*** GREETING**

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

And also with you.

*** KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

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Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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 Savior, 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.)

¹ 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, ² 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. ³ 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." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ 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. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ 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; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 *(read responsively)*

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

² **you will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust."**

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰ **no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up,**

lest you strike your foot against a stone.

¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶**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, righteousness and salvation for all in Christ – a Word near and full of grace.)

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² 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. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*** 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.”)

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² 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. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ 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. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

SERMON

Pastor Charlie Ruud

HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days
(Please stand for the final verse.)*

ELW #319

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Iona Creed

We trust in God who befriended a wandering people, delivering them from slavery into freedom; yet who in Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Cyrus, Darius and many others called outsiders to be agents of God's purpose.

We trust in Jesus who was revered by Persian sages, sought and found asylum in Egypt, preached that God loved Syrians, attracted Greeks to his cause, found his first evangelist in a Samaritan, saw incomparable faith in a Caananite woman, had his cross shouldered by a Libyan, and ascended above his native land that he might be present in all places.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, who at Pentecost proved that heaven has no favored mother-tongue; who, in the baptism of the Ethiopian denied racism a foothold in faith; and who in the ancient and modern worlds founded churches in different cultures.

We believe that God is supremely known in Jesus, yet we affirm that God is present among people who do not own Christ as their Lord.

We affirm that the kingdom of God is bigger than the Church, and the love of God is beyond our understanding. We therefore celebrate that God's ways are not our ways, that God

knows whom God chooses, and reserves the right to surpass all human expectation. Blessed be God forever! Amen.

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each petition:

...Merciful God,
Hear our prayer.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

III. THANKSGIVING

CHOIR ANTHEM

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW #742

*** OFFERTORY**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW #678, vs. 1

**God whose giving knows no ending, from you rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days**

*** 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.

IV. SENDING

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling and rebirthing Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW #326

DISMISSAL

Go forth in the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

(The postlude sends us out to be Christ's peace in the world. You are invited to savor it.)

(Our service continues with sharing fellowship in Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall, across the hall; and then in the world with other neighbors.)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon, March 10. Psalm 17

Thurs, March 13. Psalm 27

Tues, March 11. Zechariah 3:1-10

Fri, March 14. Philippians 3:17-20

Wed, March 12. Job 1:1-22

Sat, March 15. Psalm 118:26-29

Next Sunday, March 16th, is the 2nd Sunday in Lent. The Gospel text from Luke 9:28-36 tells of Jesus taking three of his disciples up a mountain and suddenly being transfigured into dazzling white while a voice from the cloud affirms Jesus' identity. Feel free to wear your sunglasses! We'll also have the privilege of hosting Rev. Babette Chatman, campus pastor of Augsburg University, as she will proclaim the word.

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