



Fasting from Tidy Faith

Second Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2021

Prelude

Confession

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength.

We diminish our respect and awe of You by not putting our relationship with you on the top of our priority list. We relegate You to being our god of convenience and comfort rather than Creator of the Cosmos, and, in this way, we limit the power you have in our lives. Have mercy on us, O God.

We let other voices and speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace.

We have been tempted to turn away from the truth you offer us. We have doubted your presence, your power and your promise. Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to love and serve others with the same compassionate love and service Christ offers us.

We have not been diligent in staying keenly aware of how we can be a source of comfort, hope and sustenance to those who suffer, or are in despair, or deprived of what they need to live. We have found security in protecting and preserving our abundant blessings. Have mercy on us, O God.

We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation.

We exploit and squander the earth's resources without inconveniencing ourselves with consideration for the sustainability of life in the future. We assume the power of gods, but fail to seek the wisdom of God in the use of our power, focusing too much on our satisfaction in this moment rather than comprehending the full scope of our actions. We privilege our lives over the lives of other creatures without respect for the depth of the interconnectedness of all life. Have mercy on us, O God.

We do not always own our own problems, nor do we take enough responsibility for working to solve them.

We scapegoat, we make excuses, we get distracted. We do not bring them to you and open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance through unexpected voices and resources. We become discontented because we resign to empty contentment. We default to following the norm rather than clinging to the distinction of being a Child of God. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Lenten Hymn

[tune: ELW 327]

*We are people on a journey
Following where the Master walks.*

**We are people on a journey
In the shadow of the cross.
What compels the face of Jesus?
Who protects our faithful guide?
He who treads the road of service
Christ the Lord the crucified.**

*We are people on a journey
To the table of the Lord.*

**We are people on a journey
Fed by water and the Word.
We remember, we remember,
How You washed disciples' feet.
We remember on the last night
Gifts of wine and bread to eat.**

*We are people on a journey
Taking up the cross of Christ.*

**We are people on a journey
Moving on from death to life.
We release the sin that tangled.
We relinquish all acclaim.
We receive the suff'ring Savior
He our glory wealth and fame.**

*We are people on a journey
Rising up in life reborn.*

**We are people on a journey
Speaking peace accepting scorn.
We are walking toward a homeland
To a myst'ry yet unknown.
To a kingdom coming quickly
To the light of God's own throne.**

Greeting & Kyrie

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

C: And also with you.

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

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Merciful Father, you drew your son along the Way of the Cross that we know your grace, love and liberation from the burdens of this world. Renew the fullness of the Spirit within each of us, that we will perceive in our faithful following along that Way, empowered by the peace of your promises to endure any opposition or depravation necessary to bring grace, love and liberation to our world with our lives. We ask this in the name of the one who suffered, died and rose again, Jesus' the Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

Exodus 4

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush, telling him to go back to Egypt and appear before the Pharaoh to command that Pharaoh release God's people from slavery to go into the wilderness to worship God. But Moses answered, "But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, 'Yahweh did not appear to you.'" The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

Moses said, "A staff."

The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground."

So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail"--so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand--"so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of

Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow.

Then God said, "Put your hand back into your cloak"--so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body-- "If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign.

If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

But Moses said to Yahweh, "Please my Adonai, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Yahweh said to him, "Who placed a mouth in human beings, or who makes one mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? So now go! I myself will be-there with your mouth and teach you as to what you are to speak."

But he said; Please, my Lord, pray send by whose hand you will send!

Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak, yes, speak well; You shall speak to him and you shall put the words in his mouth! I will be-there with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you as to what you shall do. He shall speak for you to the people; he, he shall be for you a mouth, and you, you shall be for him a God. And this staff, take in your hand with which you shall perform the signs."

R: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Ecclesiastes

1

*The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.*

**What do people gain from all the toil
at which they toil under the sun?**

A generation goes, and a generation comes,

but the earth remains forever.

**The sun rises and the sun goes down,
and hurries to the place where it rises.**

*The wind blows to the south,
and goes around to the north;
round and round goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.*

**All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they continue to flow.**

*All things are wearisome;
more than one can express;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
or the ear filled with hearing.*

**What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun.**

*Is there a thing of which it is said,
"See, this is new"?
It has already been,
in the ages before us.*

**The people of long ago are not remembered,
nor will there be any remembrance
of people yet to come
by those who come after them.**

Second Lesson

1 Peter 4

Above all, have intense and wholistic love for one another, for wholistic love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. Like good stewards of the diverse grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. If someone speaks, speak God's Word. If someone serves, serve as out of the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ -To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever! Amen!

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place

among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?"

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

L: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Verse

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*1. If you but trust in God to guide you
and place your confidence in him,
**you'll find him always there beside you
to give you hope and strength within;**
for those who trust God's changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.*

*2 Only be still and wait his pleasure
in cheerful hope with heart content.
**He fills your needs to fullest measure
with what discerning love has sent;**
doubt not our inmost wants are known
to him who chose us for his own.*

*3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully,
**and trust his word; though undeserving,
you'll find his promise true to be.**
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in him indeed.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the tenth Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 10

And once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."* But speaking with power and authority to them, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone, saying, "it is God's Divine Plan for the Son of Man to suffer much, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. If anyone is looking to follow me, they must reject their own interests and turn their focus to their cross every day. For those who want to save their life will end up destroying it, and those who end up destroying their life because of me, will save it. For what profits have come to anyone who may have gained the whole world but who has destroyed or lost themselves along the way. Those who may have been ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

*1. Take up your cross, and follow Jesus,
If His disciple you would be;
**Forsake the world and all its treasures;
And follow Him, His word believe.***

Refrain:

*Take up your cross and follow Jesus,
Give up the world and all its sin;
All needful grace He'll surely give you;
Take up your cross and follow Him.*

2. *Take up your cross, and follow Jesus,
Tho' it bring sorrow, loss and pain;*
**All your afflictions He'll remember—
Crown you with everlasting gain.** *[Refrain]*

3. *Take up your cross, and follow Jesus,
Mark well His footsteps all the way;*
**Live but to honor and obey Him;
Follow Him humbly all the day.** *[Refrain]*

4. *Be not ashamed to follow Jesus,
As He has taught you in His word;*
**Then when life's conflicts all are over,
You will receive the great reward.** *[Refrain]*

Apostles Creed

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: We do with the help of God.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived of the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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**

Offering

P: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, we give you thanks for the bounty and blessings of our lives, returning these offerings as signs of our gratitude. May these gifts further your work and sustain your kingdom among us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Dismissal

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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