**lent 1, february 18, 2024. zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**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.**

**GATHERING SONG*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)**

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.  
  
2 Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.  
  
3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.

**announcements**

Welcome to worship on this First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024.

Thank you to all who came out to our Pancake Supper on Tuesday night, over 80 people were served. The best thing about the night other than the great food was the fellowship and conversation that took place during the night and even after the food was served. Our sincerest thanks to all who helped out!!

Announcements for this week. Lots of opportunities for Lenten worship. WEG provides worship on Wednesdays beginning at noon with a short time of worship followed by soup, bread and cookies. The first one is being held at Trinity, NH this Wednesday. We are helping out with food and service participation. If anyone can bring some loaves of bread, buns or cookies. Please let me know today.

On Thursday evening Lenten worship takes place at Trinity, this is a partnership with Trinity, St George’s Anglican, and Zion. Come for soup at 5:30 and stay for worship at 6:30.

Council meets this Wednesday.

During this season of Lent we are going to explore different versions of the Lord’s prayer, some will be familiar, some will not. Reminder that there are many ways to pray the Lord’s prayer….that God listen’s no matter the version. We start with the contemporary version which is reality was first available in 1988. If your mind goes to the traditional, no worries.

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

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 p. 138)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

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.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING:****Genesis 9:8-17**

A reading from Genesis.

*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.  
 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.  
 10**All 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**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*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*… (ELW p. 142)**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

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.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 143)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Jesus Still Lead On (ELW 624)***

1 Jesus, still lead on,

till our rest be won;

and, although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless;

guide us by your hand

to the promised land.

2 If the way be drear,

if the foe be near,

let no faithless fears o'ertake us,

let not faith and hope forsake us;

safely past the foe to our home we go.

3 When we seek relief

from a long-felt grief,

when temptations come alluring

make us patient and enduring;

show us that bright shore

where we weep no more.

4 Jesus, still lead on,

till our rest be won;

heav'nly leader, still direct us,

still support, console, protect us,

till we safely stand

in the promised land.

**CREED (ELW p. 104)**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the 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**

During the season of Lent we will have a sung prayer response. This morning we respond with Lord Listen to Your Children Praying, hymn #752. 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*. We sing,

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. Protect our water resources. We sing,

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. Give justice to those who are oppressed and racialized. We sing,

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 all at risk from exploitation and abuse. Vivian, Chris, Elizabeth, Zoli, Nick, Felix, Jill, Doug, our members in long term care, Robert, Bea, Evelyn and Rob and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts( good pause). We sing,

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. We sing,

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. We sing,

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

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING and Offertory*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

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

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he had a meal with his friends, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation but 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!

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG- *Lamb Of God (*ELW p. 146)**

**COMMUNION HYMNS-** **#592, #742**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.**

**SENDING SONG*Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (ELW 326)**

1 Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.  
  
2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.  
  
3 Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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