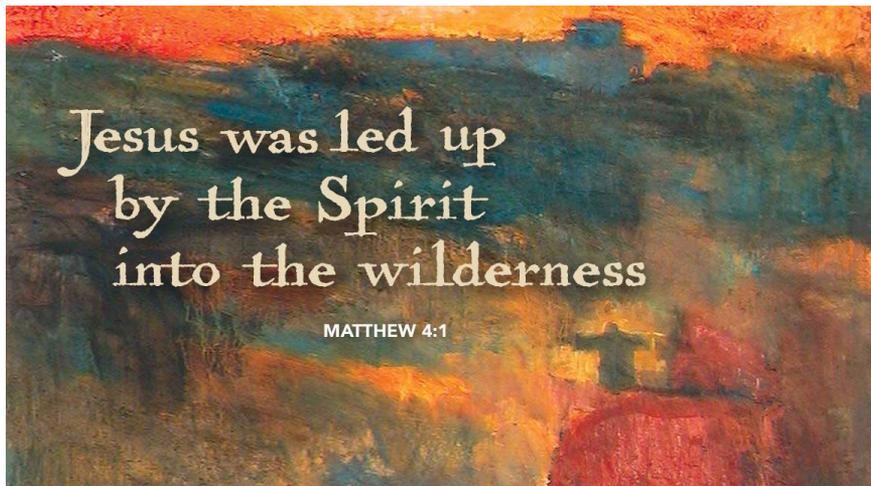


# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

(409) 735-4573



First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

**PRELUDE**                      Variations on *Sojourner*                      - Nancy Raabe

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us**

**new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

**ELW 320**

**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.**

**GATHERING SONG**

“Now is the Time of Grace”

*Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain; the cantor and choir will sing the verses.*

*Refrain*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal -  
va - tion. Turn now, and seek God's face,  
now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

*This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the captives go free, and to break the yoke of oppression. **Refrain***

*Sharing your bread with the hungry and welcoming homes in, offering hope and offering help, this is what God requires. **Refrain***

*Then shall your light break forth as dawn, and healing shall come to you quickly, then you shall call and God shall answer, God's love shall go before you. **Refrain***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. **Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 32

*Worshippers will join in singing the refrain; the choir will chant the psalm text.*



righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

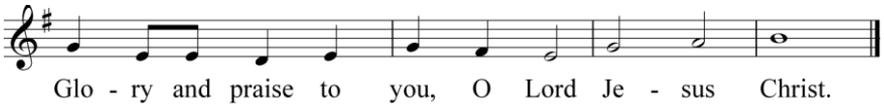
<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand if you are able.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain; the choir will sing the verse.*



*One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

### **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

**ELW 325**

**THE NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the wilderness, we pray for the church. Lead us in showing grace and hospitality to all who struggle with doubt or shame. Make your church holy ground where all people can be seen and loved for who you have created them to be. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Show your glory in deserts and on mountaintops. Nourish gardens and orchards and bless those who tend them. Forgive us for our desire to dominate creation instead of serving as faithful stewards and caretakers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Liberate leaders and governments from the temptation to exercise unjust dominion over those whom they are called to lead and serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those in need. Sustain those who are hungry and alone, those who are anxious, those facing difficult decisions, and those facing a recent diagnosis or new grief. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for putting new songs on our lips and in our hearts. Hear our voices as we join in songs of lament and praise. We give thanks for musicians, composers, and poets. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for bringing us through the desert into the promised land of your kingdom. We give thanks for saints who have guided us in times of trial and joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS**

**ANTHEM**                      “Just As I Am”                      - Richard DeLong

**OFFERING PRAYER**      *Those who are able shall stand.*

Let us pray. Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. **Prepare 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.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

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:

**SANCTUS**

**WOV S36**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

*Please be seated.*

**LAMB OF GOD**

**WOV S39**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION**

“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” - African American Spiritual

*Please stand*

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. **As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. **Amen**

**SENDING HYMN**

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

**ELW 618**

**POSTLUDE**

“Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten” - Johann C. Kittel

## Into the Wilderness

By today, the ash-drawn crosses have been washed away, no longer visible. Still, memories of them linger as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage. Perhaps as the service begins we might reach up to trace the now unseen sign of the cross, recalling God's steadfast love and praying for the still-new days of this Lenten season.

Today we prepare to receive a word that will inspire and equip us for the unfolding journey. Likely we are surprised, then, when the gospel names Jesus famished, already having fasted forty days and forty nights. Although our "forty days" are just beginning, Jesus is nearing the end of his. The Spirit that alighted on him at baptism also has led him into the wilderness. He has been stretched so far, perhaps beyond imagining; this is the cue for temptations to begin.

The tempter starts by goading Jesus with invitations to test his identity as God's Beloved, challenging Jesus to feed his hunger by turning stones to bread, or to test God's care for him by hurling himself from the temple pinnacle. Jesus resists, pushing back with scripture. "One does not live by bread alone," he says (Matt. 4:4), and "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Matt. 4:7). A third temptation sounds untenable when the devil promises what is not his to give, namely "all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor," if only Jesus will "fall down and worship" him (Matt. 4:8-9). Jesus, however, does not argue the point; instead he retorts, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him'" (Matt. 4:10).

Lent, for us, is not likely to be anything like the extremes of enduring the Judean desert or sparring one-to-one with the devil following a forty-day fast! But it may be that we will face *our* temptations differently when we remember the resistance that was empowered by Jesus' Spirit-led, scripture-grounded life.

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