

Sunday Eucharist

Sundays in Lent



January 1, 2020

Southwest California Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

*Welcome to worship today in the bishop’s chapel of the Lutheran Center in Glendale. This is the second Sunday of the time in which, out of consideration for the health and safety of others, we have replaced face-to-face public worship with a variety of digital and livestreamed options here in the Southwest California Synod and in the wider church. This service is a Eucharistic service; we will be blessing the bread and wine as we do every Sunday. I am sorry that you will not be able to receive the elements as you watch this, but know this: all who believe in Jesus’ words “given for you” in faith, have already communed as completely as if you had consumed the bread and wine. I will say more about that later. And we will all look forward to gathering around the table again soon.*

*As your bishop, it is important to me that have every opportunity to join with others in prayer, song, and thanksgiving to God for our lives, and to join me in asking for God’s protection in this time. You may be watching this in a small group, with your spouse or family, or entirely by yourself. We will give you instructions just as if you were in church, but if you do not wish to stand at the usual times, just stay seated. We have posted a bulletin for you to print out, but if you don’t have one, don’t worry—the service is easy to follow. If you have the cranberry hymnal,* Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, you will have both the hymn texts and the music. We’ll announce all the hymns.*

*Today, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, is a day in which an ancient tradition considered to be a slightly less penitent one than the other Sundays, so the color of the vestments changed from violet to rose. We’re doing that here today too, to give our service a slightly brighter look—even as we are sorry that we can’t worship in our own congregations.*

*Watching this, you may be by yourself, but when you pray with us, you are joining the whole church in our synod, our nation, and throughout the world. So now we are ready: please take a deep breath, and prepare your hearts for worship. I invite you to stand for the confession..*

### **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.**

**GATHERING SONG**

*Our gathering song today is ELW 793, “Be Thou My Vision”*

*ELW 804, “Come Down, O Love Divine”*

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**3/22 Let us pray: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

3/29 Let us pray:Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

**READING:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

**READING:** Ephesians 5:8-14

Romans 8:6-11

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

*I invite you to stand for the gospel.*

**GOSPEL:** John 9:1-41

John 11:1-45

*The Holy Gospel according to John.* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The Hymn o/t Day is ELW 520, “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”*

*ELW 787 “On Eagle’s Wings”*

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

*With the whole church in all times and places, let us confess our faith:*

**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**

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 our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Come to our aid as contagion spreads, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends, and hold us all in your care.

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

God our Strength, grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to help one another and to contain the virus. Make us diligent, attentive, and proactive in the face of all diseases that create suffering and often death.

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

Self-giving God, heal us from the self-centeredness and indifference that cause us to worry only for ourselves; lead us beyond our timidity to care for our neighbor. Strengthen and encourage those in public health service and the medical professions, and all those who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families.

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

God of Hope, inspire researchers who struggle to understand this virus and all causes of illness, and lead them to discovery, vaccines, and cures. Give hope to those whose livelihood is threatened by cancellations, shut-downs, quarantines and closed borders. Protect those who must travel, and comfort those who are lonely.

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

God of Wisdom, guide the leaders of the nations that they may speak the truth, stop misinformation, and act with justice, so that all may know healing. Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of uncertainty, give us hope and peace.

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

God of Mercy, hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their grief, and comfort us, your whole human family, and all of your creation.

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 Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*If you are watching this in the company of others, share a sign of God’s peace—but without touching them.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**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.**

**DIALOGUE**

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**

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 Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he** ☩ **who comes**

**in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, O God,

through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,

whom you sent in this end of the ages

to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

Jesus is your Word, inseparable from you,

through whom you created all things,

and in whom you take delight.

Jesus is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin’s womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering

in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

Jesus is the one who,

handed over to a death he freely accepted,

in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,

to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,

to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,

taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection,

we take this bread and cup,

giving you thanks that you have made us worthy

to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you

through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours,

almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

**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**

God’s love is poured out in Christ for you.

Open yourselves to receive it.

**PASTORAL INSTRUCTION ON SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

*Dear friends in Christ: To witness a service of Holy Communion without yourself being able to commune may seem unsatisfying, for we have the great blessing, in normal times, to be able to commune every week. Many of us have attended worship in churches of other traditions, where communion was not open to us as Lutherans. This too, can seem unfair and incomplete.*

*But I want you to know this, that the sacrament is much more than just eating and drinking. Of the two components that make up this holy sacrament, the first and most important is the promise of God’s love and grace, and then second, the bread and wine that we share as a sign of that promise. It is the promise of God that comes first, and is the most important thing. In fact, we eat and drink in order to remember that promise in a special way. The promise of God to be present with us in our worship that is the central part in our worship. And you, wherever you are, have that promise of God with you right now, even though you can’t physically eat and drink the elements in this moment.*

*As Martin Luther once wrote: “I can enjoy the sacrament … every day if only I keep my eyes on the promise, that is, on the words and promise of Christ, which feeds and strengthens my faith.” As you pray with us, remember that it is your faith you come to feed, and not your body. In our prayer Christ is with us; in his promise he is given for us.*

*Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: “This is my body; this is my blood—given for you.” Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again.* ***Amen.***

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring,

☩ bless you, unbind you,

and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

*The Sending Song is ELW 612, “Healer of Our Every Ill”*

*ELW 814, “Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**