

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

10:15 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Confession and Forgiveness

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 and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. 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. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #774

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

- 1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain: **Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.**

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

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Prayer of the Day

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 and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

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.

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

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

¹You 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.**

¹³ You 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.**

¹⁵ They 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, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{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."

Gospel Acclamation

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (*Matt. 4:4*)

The Gospel of Luke starting with the 4th Chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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."

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.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And 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. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹Then 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, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus 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 Our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #319 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

- 1. O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**
- 2. You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, you skill and trust in God's eternal world.**
- 3. Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny our selves that we may know God's love.**
- 4. Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

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Apostles' 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.**

Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #185 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit
from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me
with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a
right spirit within me.**

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Offering Prayer

**Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your
heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our
commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus
Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

**God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you
now and forever. Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #328 "Restore in Us, O God"

- 1. Restore in us, O God, the spender of your love; renew your image in our
hearts, and all our sins remove.**

2. **O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.**
3. **Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.**
4. **Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.**

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Dismissal


Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!


Postlude

 **Thank You** Eric Henderson, for leading worship today.

 **"A Fiesta of Joy"** is the second special event WELCOME has sponsored to the benefit of immigration families served by a partnership of five Mankato based Lutheran churches, including Calvary. WELCOME is asking us to help with this event by creating some baskets for a silent auction. The fundraiser is taking place at Christ the King on April 3rd. Save the date for the event & please consider donating a basket, items for a basket or a donation towards a basket. See the various flyers posted around the church or ask Erica Kittelson for details.

 We are still looking for one more volunteer to join the **Call Committee**. Please see Bob or Eric if interested.

 **Lawn Mowing bids:** If interested please contact Bob or Eric with your bid.

 **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie, Gregg Nelson the Schwantes family, and the Strand family.

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