

**ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**9:15 AM**

**FEBRUARY  
28, 2021**



**Making the  
Love of  
*Christ*  
Known**

Jeffery Gramza  
*Senior Pastor*

Charlie Frekot  
*Vicar*

# Welcome /Announcements

**Prelude**      *Who You Are To Me*

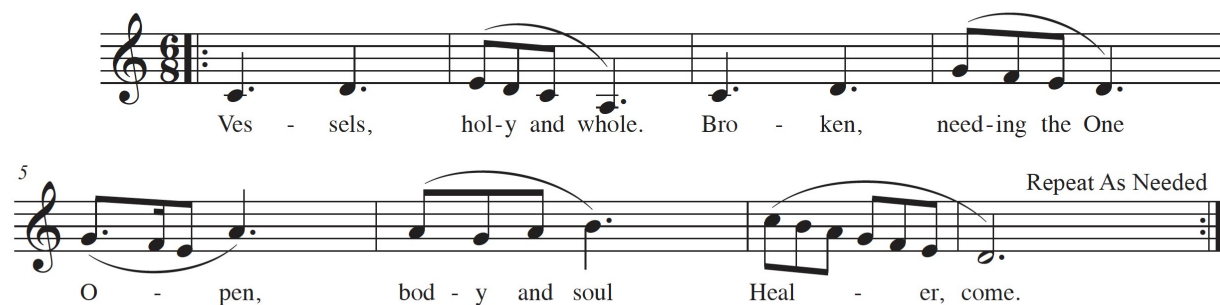
## Threshold

We continue our Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

### Holy Vessels

Threshold Song - WDS Lenten Series

MUSIC: Chuck Bell  
WORDS: Marcia McFee



The musical notation is written on two staves in G-clef and 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics: "Ves - sels, hol-y and whole. Bro - ken, need-ing the One". The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics: "O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come." The second staff begins with a measure rest marked with a '5'. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "Repeat As Needed".

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God gathers us as a Beachcomber gathers and marvels at every precious surviving piece of beach glass she finds. We are never alone, we are never lost to the One who seeks humanity’s wholeness. We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ that knows we cannot be personally healed until we see the interconnected community as part of the process of healing. Jesus has the power to re-vision the family of God in which false boundaries are overcome. In a year of devastating loss of livelihood, we consider the economic health that reimagines status quo.

***Repeat Refrain***



## **Prayer of Confession**

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, which include the communities of which we are a part.

Let us pray:

**God of All,**

**You created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another.**

**Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up.**

**We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity. We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices.**

**Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness.**

**We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.**

**Help us, Healer.**

**Show us our empathy.**

**Forgive our complacency.**

**Move us to move  
one step at a time.**

**In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.**

*Silence*

***Repeat Refrain***



## **Assurance**

Know this: This love and security is meant for all people.

No. Matter. What.

We are capable of sharing our light and not running out of “enough.” Christ’s hospitality that broke through false boundaries points the way.

For you, for me, for all.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...  
and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

## **Peace**

I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those who may be next to you in close proximity. Imagine it extending beyond your walls to

the neighborhood...  
the wider community...  
the church...

and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world. Let this be our peace. Amen.

The peace of Christ is with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Worship and Praise**

*If We Are The Body  
Faithful God*



## **Prayer of the Day**

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word.

We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. And we thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. In your triune name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Children's Sermon**

**Kids Praise** (10:45) *At this time children age 3 – grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.*



## **First Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

*The reading is concluded:*

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 8: 5-13**

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

*After the reading:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Prayers**

## Offering

### Offering Prayer

#### 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.**

### Benediction

### Sending Song

*I Will Follow*