

**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

9:15 AM

**MARCH 21,
2021**



**Making the
Love of
Christ
Known**

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

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Vicar

Prelude—*Amazing Love*

Welcome /Announcements

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

Musical notation for the song "Holy Vessels". The first line of music is in G-clef and 3/4 time, starting with a repeat sign. The lyrics are: "Ves - sels, hol-y and whole. Bro - ken, need-ing the One". The second line of music starts with a measure rest of 5 measures, then continues with the lyrics: "O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come." The second line ends with a double bar line and the instruction "Repeat As Needed".

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The demands of following Jesus are great. He shows us that sometimes we must make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. We live in increasing chaos of a beleaguered environment and the hoarding of resources. We want to be “saved” by something or someone else, but we discover this week that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm. We protect the jewel that is our home, restoring something beautiful from scars of the past.

Repeat Refrain



Prayer of Confession

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, especially this holy container of life on which we live—this very planet.

Let us pray:

Life-giving God,

In the beginning, you created this universe with a phrase, “Let it be...” and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed.

You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things.

We have not successfully answered that call.

Too often we think there is nothing we can do—that the change required is too great.

It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the small things that could make a difference for our own community.

Help us, Healer.

Show us our ability to chart a different course.

Forgive our inaction.

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

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

Silence



Assurance

Know this: Jesus asks us to do hard things, to make changes,
knowing we are capable.

No. Matter. What.

We can change in order to heal this jewel planet called home.

The calm of Christ in the storm is available.

For you, for me, for all.

Peace

I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending
to those who may be next to you. 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

Way Maker
Abide With Me

Prayer of the Day



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 Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.



Gospel: Matthew 8: 18-27

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A wind-storm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Offering

Offering Prayer



The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song

The River

