

**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

9:15 AM

**MARCH 7,
2021**



**Making the
Love of
Christ
Known**

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Charlie Frekot
Vicar

Prelude—Glorious Day

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 notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). 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: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter). The lyrics are: "O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come." The piece ends with a repeat sign and the instruction "Repeat As Needed".

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Those who collect beach glass often become “archeologists”—seeking out any markings or clues as to the story of the original piece. It often takes much time to bring out the truth behind it. This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property. There are stories that have shaped our lives, leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle. We focus on the importance of recovery of mental health, reclaiming our sense of who we are and being able to proclaim new redemptive stories of divine worth.

Repeat Refrain



Prayer of Confession

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, and that the health of our minds deeply affects our physical and spiritual health.

Let us pray:

**Centering and Calming Divine Breath of God,
You gifted us with amazing minds, capable of so many things. You gave us the ability to think and feel, imbuing us with discernment of thought and emotion.**

We struggle under the strain of disappointment, despair, and delusion.

Too often we hide this, afraid of what others might think of our difficulties in managing or moving forward, even in the face of devastating circumstances.

So many are suffering now, God, weary and distraught, grieving and at the end of their rope.

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 capacity for compassion.
Forgive our inattention.
Move us to move
toward greater care for one another.**

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

Silence

Repeat Refrain



Assurance

Know this: You are accepted.
No. Matter. What.
Accepting the truth of our difficulties is part
of the journey of recovery.
Sharing our stories of difficulty can open the way for healing.
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

*This I Believe
Is He Worthy*



Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness, whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world, we thank you for the scandal of the cross. In Jesus Christ, you overturn all our usual ways of behaving and believing. You scatter our false notions of discipleship as easily as coins are spilled from a box. You correct our notions of piety and order with fierce passion. Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution. Raze to ruins what is distorted in us, and raise us to new life as a community so that we may be the body of Christ in and for the world. With fear and joy we ask this in Christ's name.

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.*



Reading Exodus 20: 1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

 *The reading is concluded:*
Word of God, word of life.

6 **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 9: 27-33

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you." And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, "See that no one knows of this." But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district. After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel."

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Offering

Offering Prayer

Communion Prayer



The Lord's Prayer

Distribution of Communion

The Blessing

Benediction

Sending Song

Christ Be All Around Me