

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021

PRELUDE

Southwell

Christopher Uehlein

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

O Christ, You Walked the Road

O Christ, You walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.

You faced with us temptation's pow'r and fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone can fill our hung'ring hearts.

Lord, help us seek Your living Word, the food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, no wonder from above.

Lord, help us place our trust alone in Your unswerving love.

O Christ, You walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.

Stay with us through temptation's hour to fight our ancient foe.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C Holy God, in the waters of the flood You saved faithful Noah, and in the wilderness of temptation You sustained Your Son. As we have come to new life in the waters of baptism, send Your holy angels to be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY

Precious Lord

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call; hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near
and the day is almost gone,
at the river I stand; guide my feet, hold my hand,
take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

SERMON

"Rainbow Promises"

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Relying on the promises of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P Your kingdom has come near to us in Christ. Give Your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance. Teach us to trust always in the good news of Your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction, and empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and educators. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they maintain justice for all, especially the lowly and vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You are with us even in the wilderness. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, especially all on our prayer line and those we lift up before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You claim us as beloved children in the covenant of baptism. Keep us mindful of our baptismal identity for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern, especially our food collection and soup kitchen partnerships and our Lenten service projects making Easter baskets and personal care kits. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism. We praise You for all those who have died trusting in Your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the promised land of peace and rest. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to You, faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

C 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.

CLOSING HYMN

My Hope is Built On Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;
when ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
clothed in His righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before His throne!
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Magdalen

Albert Beck

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector John Ansorge

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