



Perley Lutheran Parish  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
First Sunday in Lent



### Gathering Spoken Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from every need that hath us now overtaken.  
The old evil foe now means deadly woe; deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight; on Earth is not his equal.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

### Welcome and Announcements

- Annual Meeting following this service
- Kirkebo's Annual meeting next Sunday
- Ash Wednesday – beautiful service – about 20 gathered
- Lenten Services at 7 at Kirkebo this week.

### Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

**C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are +forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

### Annual Meeting Sunday Liturgy:

P O God of all power and love ...

**C we give thanks for your unfailing presence.**

P O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

**C for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**

P O God of all power and love ...

**C we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

P O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

**C to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.**

P O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

**C a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.**

P O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

**C wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day:

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chose, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Psalms 25:1-10 (read responsively)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.** Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are want only treacherous. **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.** Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.** Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.** He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and 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. I 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." God 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: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I 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. When 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." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

## Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:1-15, **Glory to you O Lord**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>4</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

## The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### Children's Message

There was a time when you could walk the streets of a city and hear the voice of a newspaper boy crying out, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it." He called out to get the attention of people who were passing by so that they would come to him and buy a newspaper. That was the way the news was spread in those days.

How do people get their news today? People get their news in many different ways. For some, the newspaper is still their main source for news and they read it from cover to cover. Some may get their news from the radio. Probably the main way that people get the news today is from television. No matter how we get our news, it is important for us to know what is going on in the world around us.

Did you know that Jesus himself was in the news business? The Bible says that Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. Listen to what he said, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." Jesus wanted everyone to know the good news of God's love for them.

How do people get the good news of God's love today? Some may get it from newspapers, radio or television. Some may come to church and hear about God's love. But the best way to spread the good news of God's love is the same today as it was in Jesus' day. The best way is for you and me to tell others about it!

You and I should be like the newsboy standing on the street corner crying out, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news -- God loves you!"

Dear Jesus, may we follow your example and share the good news of God's love with everyone we meet. Amen.

### Message

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

It's been a really busy week with Kim and I getting all of the Sunday school packets together and delivered all day Monday, and then Ash Wednesday this week, so it is through the help of Reverend Mary Erickson that I share an adaptation of a message she provided called *New Beginnings*.

We've talked just weeks ago about how Jesus' baptism launches His holy ministry. Jesus goes into the wilderness area where John was baptizing people in the Jordan River. The Jordan River conveyed hope and promise to the people of Israel. That river marked the end of Israel's long 40-year

Exodus when they returned to the Promised Land from slavery in Egypt. And now John was conducting his ministry at this very place so bursting with significance.

John's baptism was all about repentance from sin. John was calling people to take a good look at themselves. He wanted them to see where they had veered away from God's will. His baptism called them to return to their true north. John was preparing Israel for the momentous thing God was about to do.

Jesus joins the masses going to see John. This sinless Son of God waits in line to be baptized among all the unrighteous. Jesus certainly doesn't need to be baptized. He is fully aligned with the divine will. But there he is. He stands along-side of the tax collectors, soldiers, adulterers and cheats.

Jesus doesn't need this, he doesn't need repenting, but there he is. This is how he initiates his ministry! There's something about this baptism that is essential for Jesus. He NEEDS it, even if HE doesn't need it. Being here on the banks of the Jordan River, Jesus begins his earthly work by submitting to this baptism of repentance.

How important are beginnings? Think about when you are building something – how important is that foundation? You MUST take pains to measure correctly and evenly and straight, right?! We must meticulously calculate and keep things level! If that beginning is off even a tiny bit then all that follows will spin into a trajectory of failure.

Jesus shows up at this baptism for a reason. It's significant, it's essential. This divine Word took on human flesh. He came to be Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus' objective was to dwell with us. Jesus' ministry is to accompany us in all of our humanity. In every way, Jesus came to fully immerse himself in our humanity. He came to identify with us completely. This is the heart and soul of his ministry and mission!

So Jesus begins his ministry with his baptism by John. And as he goes down in the waters of the Jordan, Jesus immerses himself in our condition. HE may not need repentance, but WE need it! WE need forgiveness of sin, WE need atonement for our wrongs and guidance from above. And so Jesus gives himself to baptism. He submits his will and his destiny to that of the divine. For our sake, he enters the waters.

Jesus launches his ministry with this baptism. What his ministry will be remains to be revealed at this time but that ministry, every step between here and Golgotha, is built upon this baptism. His baptism lays the foundation upon which his entire ministry – every miracle, human interaction, healing, confrontation, every lesson – is built. Down to his last breath on the cross, Jesus' ministry is built on his baptism. In all things, he identifies with us. Our concerns become his concerns. He takes on our pain, our grief. And at the last, he takes on our sin.

Contained within Jesus' baptism was the reality of his eventual death. His baptism, his identity with our reality, found its full completion at Golgotha. His ending on the cross marked our new beginning.

Our savior who was baptized to fully identify with us, gives his righteousness to us. This divine righteousness received in our baptism forms the foundational layer upon which our lives are now built. Christ's redemption has given us a lasting imprint of divine righteousness. Sin and its corruption do not define us! There are no stains from yesterday's failings and transgressions. We don't need to bury them. No, we can confess them in complete honesty before God and to ourselves. Truthfully, the meaning of our own baptism isn't something we can fully understand. Most of us experienced baptism as an infant – not something we remember. If you were baptized later in life, well you can look back at it today and reflect on that event but the implications of what took place on that day were really just

beginning to unfold for you. It will take the completion of our lives to understand the significance of our baptism, the entirety of our days to unpack it fully.

In your baptism, you were adopted as a son, as a daughter of God. You were transformed by the loving actions of the one who came to identify with us in his own baptism and death. His righteousness became your righteousness. We are truly blessed to know that Jesus is the foundation of our lives – the firm foundation to build upon in our life with Christ. Amen

Hymn of the Day: Thy Holy Wings

Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my every moment  
be lived within thy grace.

Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need. In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. 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, **Your mercy is great**

All our paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leader in our communities, our country and our world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. We pray for those who are dealing with little or no heat, little or no water and food, and little or no shelter because of what is either happening in their area because of storms or because they simply are in need to care for themselves and their families. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hear us O God,  
**Your mercy is great**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Sonya and Margie, Terry and Mike, Jeff and Kirk and Arlis, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Words of Institution and 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. 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***

God keeps adding places to the table. Come to the banquet that has no end!

After Communion Prayer

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you +that you may be a blessing the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. Amen.

Closing Spoken Hymn: The Church's One Foundation #369

The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
we are a new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and taught us  
what perfect love can be;

through life and death he sought us,  
and rose to set us free.

The church in every nation  
is one through all the earth;  
our charter of salvation,  
one God, one faith, one birth;  
one name together blessing,  
one holy food we share,  
to one hope ever pressing,  
at one in work and prayer.

Dismissal: Go in Peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

End of Annual Meeting Prayer

**Beloved Father, we thank you for being with us today as we remember all that has been accomplished together in the past year. We ask that you continue to be with us as we work to be a constant presence in this area that we find community within these walls and outside of them and that we continue to love one another as you love us. In your beloved name, we raise up all that has been discussed today and ask that you be an ever present reminder of why and what we do in your name. In your name we pray. Amen**

**Mark Your Calendars:** *(All services are streamed on-line as well as in -person)*

Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Service at 7pm – Kirkebo (no meal served)

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – Service at 9am at Kirkebo – Annual Meeting at Kirkebo

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lenten Service at 7pm – Nora (no meal served)

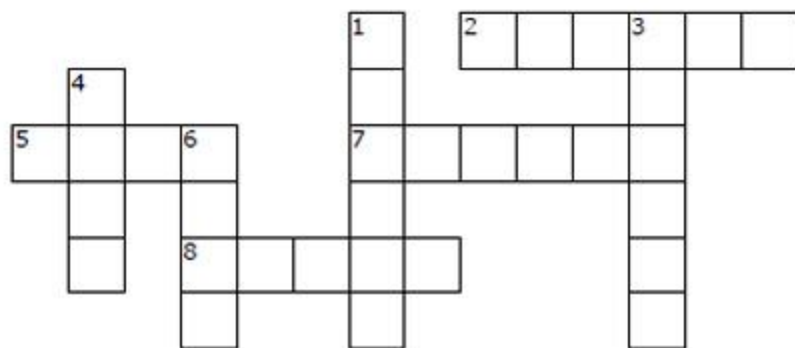
Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Service at 9am at Nora

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# The Good News

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:9-15, 19-28 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. The river where Jesus was baptized
5. The man who baptized Jesus
7. Messengers of God
8. A clear, odorless liquid; H<sub>2</sub>O

## DOWN

1. The place where God is
3. A dry area with very little vegetation
4. The opposite of bad
6. Information about recent events

ANGELS  
NEWS

DESERT  
WATER

GOOD  
HEAVEN

JOHN  
JORDAN



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Based on Mark 1:9-15 19-28 (NIV)



H L H J O R D A N U Q W W B L  
B Y E J O H N G W B F T N V G  
B X A D Y H E N A Z A R E T H  
G C V I P E A B E L I E V E V  
I J E A L L W Q R H K G M F M  
P Z N I T N Q D E S E R T E K  
B U L M D E J E S U S I Z F S  
Z A W E E U M D T Z S L A W Q  
G M P G O L G P O W A T E R F  
O S W T E L O Z T V K N C Y T  
S G P C I L O V P E E O T N F  
M B I I J Z D C E Y D R E L D  
J O W L R S E K Q X O P I V A  
V U M V X I D D C F E P G I Y  
X Z Q R M Q T Z A R P B Q X S

GALILEE  
NEWS  
SPIRIT  
JESUS

BAPTIZED  
DAYS  
NAZARETH  
WATER

REPENT  
TEMPTED  
FORTY  
JOHN

VOICE  
DOVE  
JORDAN  
HEAVEN

DESERT  
BELIEVE  
GOOD  
LOVE

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Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.  
Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



D	Q	Ó	U	V	A	G	R	Z	C	O	Ü	N	É	X	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ñ	Ú	Á	Y	H	I	K	L	Í	J	W	B	P	F	E	T	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	

- 27-11-22-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 30-8-23-16-11-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 27-32-16-4-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-11-11-1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-32-28-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-23-13-7-1-11-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-32-30-32-13-33 \_\_\_\_\_
- 29-32-25-23-32-5-32 \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD	KINGDOM	NEWS	BELIEVE
JOHN	PRISON	JESUS	REPENT