

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today we begin our Sundays in Lent. The day's readings feature themes of baptism and how Jesus' baptismal calling and ours drives us into the wilderness of the world in the service of divine rescue. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging in the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, 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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

⁸God 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210221/playlist>

PSALM 25:1-10

- ¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
- ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- ³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.
- ⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and
for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
- ⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
- ⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.
- ¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹⁸Christ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

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

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 Jesus 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 Jesus 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 dominion of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Here are metaphors for how we are right now: We are in a flood, drowning. We are wandering in the wilderness, afraid of the wild beasts, and, if we are being tested, we fail. We are surrounded by death and that imprisons us. But Jesus Christ comes preaching and in the power of the Spirit he comes to us now. His coming changes everything. Jesus has seen the dove coming, the end of the flood. Baptized into him, the Spirit comes to us, too. Jesus' resistance to the evil one turns our wildernesses into places of peace with all creation and places where the angels serve. Baptized into him, we see our world with new eyes and are given strength to resist evil and take joy in the creation. Jesus' cross and resurrection break open the captivity of death. Baptized into his death we are raised with him out of fear. The forty days of Lent invite us to remember again that we are baptized, to rejoice in God's rainbow covenant with all creatures, and to be ourselves part of the sign of God's love for the world.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's First Sunday of Lent Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at: <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210221/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20210221/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Then pray these intercessions:

On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, responding to each petition with words echoing today's psalm, In you we put our trust.

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the worldwide church, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O righteous God:

In you we put our trust.

Remembering the deaconess Elizabeth Fedde, we pray for all deacons and deaconesses, that they serve those in need with constancy and joy. Empower our congregation's ministries of care, and provide the funds needed for service.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O generous God:

In you we put our trust.

Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O creative God:

In you we put our trust.

Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders in the government in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan, and stem the might of tyrants the world over.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O sovereign God:

In you we put our trust.

Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O warm-hearted God:

In you we put our trust.

Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fuelling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier and family, Maria Liwski, John Showman, Grant Aldonis, Angie, Debbie, and Kat. We pray for all who have contracted Covid-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you. Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O benevolent God:

In you we put our trust.

Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Receive our prayers, O tender and mighty God:

In you we put our trust.

We praise you for the Christians of time past, especially Polycarp and all the martyrs who died in their witness to you. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayers, O splendid God:

In you we put our trust.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20210221/playlist>

HYMN #326

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and wīnds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life. For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all. For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing, Holy God, now and forever.
Amen.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 77. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156) 1 Peter 3:8-18a. **Wednesday** Proverbs 30:1-9. **Thursday** (commemoration of Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921) Psalm 22:23-31. **Friday** Genesis 16:1-6. **Saturday** Mark 8:27-30. **Second Sunday in Lent** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

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