

# Healing Waters Lutheran Parish

## LENTEN SERVICES

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*Wednesday – February 24, 2021*

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# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **OPENING LITANY**

O God, you are the source of our hope.

**Guide us through change and chance.**

When we grow weary and faint,

**call our hearts to be your own.**

When our plans fall to dust,

**be our temple and our tower**

When the world lacks joy and beauty,

**reveal your splendor, light, and life.**

O God, we praise you for the gift of your Son.

**Strengthen us to follow the way of the cross.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God of the ages, your creation revolves through seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night. When the

seasons come and go and uncertainty looms ahead, we long for the constancy of your love. Give us courage, wisdom, and patience to be your agents of change in the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 90**

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Please stand and say together our Gospel  
Acclamation*

**Return to the LORD, your God, who is  
gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love.** *(Joel 2:13)*

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:18-21**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

...

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Meditative music for reflection follows the sermon.*

## CHANGE OF SEASON

“For everything there is a season.” We hear those familiar words telling us that life is full of changes. Jesus’ parables are also filled with images of life transformed. Just as the mustard seed grows into a tree or yeast turns flour into bread, we too are called to be agents of change in the kingdom of God. Christ did not come to earth to maintain the status quo, but rather to usher in a change of season.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another with Psalm 51 responsively.

### **PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,**

**and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation**

**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or**

**I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS**

O God our help,  
you walk with us through all of life's changes.

**Grant us strength, patience, wisdom,  
and understanding.**

O God our hope,  
you come to us in the life, death, and  
resurrection of Christ.

**Show us your salvation,  
and lead us in the way of the cross.**

O God our shelter,  
you enfold us like a mother hen gathering  
her chicks.

**Watch over all who are sick, grieving,  
lonely, and in need this day.**

O God our home, you claim us as your beloved children.

**Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom.**

*Silence for prayers in our hearts.*

All this we ask through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Steadfast God, you bless us amid all the changes and chances of life. Grant us servant hearts, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **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, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go now in peace, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Gathered in Faith ~ Sent to Serve***

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