



## **MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

***1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948***

**11:00 AM — February 21, 2021 — First Sunday in Lent  
Traditional Worship Service**

## Setting Three—Holy Communion

### INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Call to Lent"*

**Williams**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

**Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

**Hymn 504**

### 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.**

### KYRIE

**p. 138**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (Verses 1-3 & Lent 1) *“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”* **Hymn 334**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

*Sit*

### **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 9:8-17**

*Today’s reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>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: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,**

**and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All 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**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who 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. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**p. 142**

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 1:9-15**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee,

proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**  
*Sit*

## **SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

**Hymn 319**

## **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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**  
*Sit*

## **ANTHEM**

*“I Lift My Soul”*

**Miller**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN**     *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**Hymn 885**

*Stand*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **HYMN**

*“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”*

**Hymn 814**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**p. 153**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**HYMN**

*“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”*

**Hymn 814**

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**HYMN**

*“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”*

**Hymn 814**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG**

**p. 154**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**p. 155**

Let us pray.

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

**SENDING SONG**

*“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”*

**Hymn 326**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Altar Greenery.** *Today’s Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God by Susan Hyde.*

**Bulletin Covers.** *Today’s Bulletin Covers are given to the glory of God by Auston & Roxanne Rich in honor of Gale McLeod for all of her hard work and dedication to the Contemporary Service and her previous work with the Seraph Singers. Thank you for keeping a song in our hearts all of these years.*

**Lord Teach Us To Pray:**

*As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week:* Rhett Anderson, Adelaide Bowman, Louise Bowman, Herbert Brazell, Judy Dawson, Kelly Hamilton, Chapin Jacobs, Celia Kelley, Kristie Lown, Dalton Payne, David Prim, Michael Scyphers, Deanna Sease, Todd Sease, Jack Stockton, Tyler Tuten.

**Most Recent Prayer Concerns:**

Dakota Campbell, Carol Williams, Rue Stearns, Samuel Davis, Rachel Bundrick.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Penny Timmerman, Carolyn Smith, Herman Bouknight, Boyd Steele, Alice Pollock, Linda Wessinger, Herb Brazell, Elise Harmon, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Hazel Rauch, Matthew Hook, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

**Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:**

Mike Schaffer & Family, Jim & Barbara Murphy, Jon Hughes, Steve Collum, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

**Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:**

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, John Post.

**Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:**

Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews, Bernd Koehler, John Ward.

**The Family Of:**

Wayne Smith.

*Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.*

***Worship Leaders***

*Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor  
Mrs. Elise Helms, Interim Choir Director  
Mrs. Jenny Wright, Guest Musician*

*Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation  
Vicar Gayle Nelson, Intern*