

Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism

- ✚ to *live* among God's faithful people,
- ✚ to *hear* the word of God and *share* in the Lord's supper,
- ✚ to *proclaim* the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
- ✚ to *serve* all people, following the example of Jesus
- ✚ and to *strive* for justice and peace in all the earth

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 + 7:00pm

The 7th Day of Lent

St. Martin's Lutheran Church + Archbold, Ohio

Rev. Paul Reichert

Sunday Worship, 9am + Sunday School, 10:30am

Welcome to Wednesday worship. Our worship themes are based on the covenant promises made in the baptismal service and the affirmation of baptism.

Tonight's Theme... *"To live among God's faithful people"*

We will not be receiving an offering in the midst of our Lenten Services. Offering plates will be available in the back of the Sanctuary as you enter and leave worship.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gracious gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,

You are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah, his family, and the animals survive the flood.

Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all your beloved creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin that is within us,

and drown the evil that surrounds us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING SONG

"ALL ARE WELCOME"

Refrain



All are wel-come, friend and stran-ger, at the ban-quet of the Sav-ior.



All are wel-come. All are wel-come here.

Verse



1. From the wo-man who comes cry-ing leav-ing tears at Je-sus' feet,
2. From the ones who feel for-got-ten those who sense their place is gone;
3. Go in-to the streets and cit-ies to the farms and fam-i-lies;



to the man who knows the right way but can-not see.
to the ones who live in hun-ger, here you be-long.
tell a-bout the splen-did ta-ble, God's mer-cy.

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

Through baptism we have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

In this covenant we promised to live among God’s faithful people.

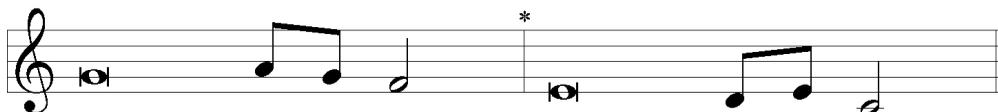
As we carry out the life of this Christian community and its mission in the world,
Together let us give praise to God and bear God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. (*Isaiah 11:2*)

Amen.

PSALMODY – *sung together*

PSALM 133



**¹How good and how pleas- | ant it is,*
when kindred live togeth- | er in unity!**

**²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard,*
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.**

**³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion.*
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:36-47

³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.
⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

In many and various ways God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets.
But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. (*Hebrews 1:1*)

REFLECTION

“To Live Among God’s Faithful People”

As a Call to Prayer, the following Refrain is sung two times...

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

PRAYERS

Prayer petitions are offered...concluding with...

I give thanks to you, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today, and I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. For into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen *(Martin Luther's Evening Prayer)*

Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ, we pray with confidence:

**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**

BENEDICTION

Marked with the cross of Christ, go in boldness, as a beloved child of God.
Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.
Journey in peace, under the shelter of the Spirit.
Almighty God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless you this night and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be the Tie that Binds". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains four lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving bass lines.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

Thanks be to God.

All Are Welcome Text and Music Hans Peterson & Larry Olson © 1999 Dakota Road Music

Take, Oh Take Me As I Am Text and Music: John Bell ©1995 Iona Community by GIA Publications, Inc., ELW#814

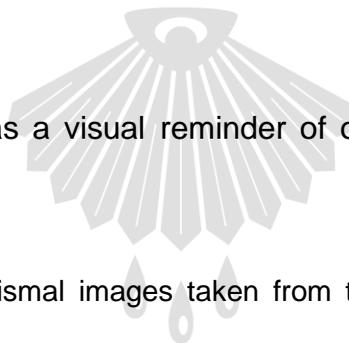
Wednesday Worship during Lent will continue at 7:00pm through April 8.

Holy Week – as we look ahead to Holy Week, please make plans now to experience the whole of the story by participating in each of the Holy Week services. Evening Prayer will be offered Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (Apr. 6, 7, 8) at 7pm, Maundy Thursday (Apr. 9) at 7pm and Good Friday (Apr. 10) at 7:30pm. Please note the later time for Good Friday.

WORSHIP THEMES FOR LENT 2020

Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism

The baptismal font is placed in the front of the chancel as a visual reminder of our baptism throughout this season.



9AM SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES

Each of the Sundays in Lent will follow with a series of baptismal images taken from the service of baptism linked to the gospel readings.

MARCH 1 – *THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS + RENOUNCING EVIL*

MARCH 8 – *NICODEMUS + SEEKING NEW BIRTH*

MARCH 15 – *WOMAN AT THE WELL + LIVING WATER THAT LASTS*

MARCH 22 – *MAN BORN BLIND + LIGHT AND NEW SIGHT*

MARCH 29 – *RAISING OF LAZARUS + DYING AND RISING*

7PM WEDNESDAY WORSHIP THEMES

In the Baptism liturgy, parents and sponsors make promises to nurture the faith of the young person being baptized. At Confirmation, those baptized young people make that same commitment to continue in the covenant of baptism for themselves. The words used within both of those liturgies is this:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; to serve all people following the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each of the Wednesdays in Lent will focus on a different part of that baptismal covenant.

MARCH 4 – *TO LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE*

MARCH 11 – *TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD & SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER*

MARCH 18 – *TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS THROUGH WORD AND DEED*

MARCH 25 – *TO SERVE ALL PEOPLE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS*

APRIL 1 – *TO STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ALL THE EARTH*

Lent is not a somber 6-week funeral for Jesus. It renews us and calls us to reflect – a spring cleaning for the soul.