

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English Speaking Congregation
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Ministers of Music: Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor, Andrew Donaldson

First Sunday of Lent + 9 March 2014

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Myanmar, Thailand*

We move the baptismal font to a more central location. We put some plastic bottles around, plus some plastic sacs etc to remember the look of Ash Wednesday. We also spread some plastic bottles throughout the congregation, although we don't try and give one to everybody.

P: is the pastor. 1 and 2 are readers.

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Greeting

Forty days and forty nights

rains pounded the face of the earth, flooding the whole world.

Forty days and forty nights

Moses ascended to Mt. Sinai pleading that God would forgive the sins of the people of Israel.

Forty days and forty nights

Elijah went to Mt. Horeb for prophecy to be renewed.

Forty days and forty nights

Jesus fasted in the desert after his baptism

Forty days and forty nights we desert our regular habits

to pray more and eat less,

to give more and buy less,

to pay more attention to others

and put less focus on ourselves.

We worship the Blessed Trinity,

one God in three persons

throughout these forty days

and forever. Amen.

Hymn **Forty days and forty nights**

P:

The wasteland,

Jesus goes to the wasteland, the place without comfort, nourishment, the support of life, where the well is often dry, and the bucket empty.

After his baptism, with the water of repentance and the voice of the Spirit, he is led to the desert, without water, and this time the voice is the voice of the serpent.

(picking up one of the plastic bottles)

On Ash Wednesday, the ashes of our mortality were connected to the waste of our times, the mark of death related to the choking of the planet. Waste to waste, ashes to ashes. This morning those images stay with us.

Jesus not only enters the wasteland, he enters our land of waste, where temptation snakes its

seduction at every turn. We listen this morning not only to the words of Jesus, but we also hear the Devil's voice. We must also listen closely to this voice, so we recognize it when it comes to us. Then even more carefully to the voice of Jesus.

Prayer of the day

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Let us pray:

Fearless God,
able to contend with deserts and devils,
yet ready to forgive when we fail,
strong enough to overcome temptation
yet dwelling with us even when we succumb to its wiles,
in the wasteland of our world, of our lives,
attune our ears to your voice, more and more
and less to the voices which call us to waste,
and which leave us with wasted lives,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

The children may go to church school and Sunday play

Old Testament Reading

Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Song

Gospel reading

Matthew 4:1-11

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 4.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the

world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Stephen Larson

Hymn

John Samuel Beweley Monsell

Henry Lascelles Jenner

1. I hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be:
2. Thou bruised and bro - ken bread, my life - long wants sup - ply;
3. Thou true life - gi - ving vine, let me thy sweet - ness prove;
4. Since first their course be - gan, rough paths my feet have trod.
5. For still the de - sert lies my thirst - ing soul be - fore;

ye liv - ing wa - ters, burst out of the rock for me.
as liv - ing souls are fed, oh feed me, or I die.
re - new my life with thine; re - fresh my soul with love.
Feed me, thou liv - ing bread; help me, thou Son of God.
O liv - ing wa - ters, rise with - in me e - ver - more.

Call to Prayer

P: You may be seated.

P: Jesus is tempted and so are we.

1: Stones could be bread. Think of all the jobs, the rising living standards, the escape from poverty. What's a few chemicals leeching into the stream when we can put people to work?

2: 300,000 people around Charleston, West Virginia could not use the city water for five days after a chemical spill into the Elk River.

Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: One-third of the Yellow River in China is so polluted with waste that it should no longer be used even for irrigation. In dry times of the year, no water reaches the sea at all.

Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: We do not live by jobs alone, and we all live downstream.

P: Jesus is tempted and so are we

1: Throw yourself to the winds. God will send angels to save you.
Life is for flying high.

Middle-class Chinese women talk of the three C's: Career, Children, Consumption.
That's what keeps the economy working. Technology will save us.

2: The Artic ice cap is shrinking at an alarming rate.

Vanuatu waits for the big wave that will wash some of their islands out of existence.

Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: Droughts,
Namibia, California, Queensland, Angola
Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

floods,
Southeast England, Bangladesh, Colorado
Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: Do not put nature to the test.

P: Jesus is tempted and so are we.

1: All this could be yours.
If you buy it, you can do what you want with it.
You own it. You control it.

2: The oil companies suck oil from the Niger delta, and corrupt officials get rich. But rural communities still do not have safe drinking water or good roads.
Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: A Palestinian shepherd draws meager water from an uncertain well, but able to see the Israeli settler lounging by her swimming pool.
Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: Constant are the images enticing us to want,
encouraging us to waste.
“Discover your soul,” says the sign selling a car at the auto show
as if a car could give us a soul.
Hidden away is the cost
the cost in the exploitation of those without choices,
the cost to the earth itself.
Someone crunches underfoot a plastic water bottle.

2: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.

P: What temptations hold you in their grip?
In the land of waste, how would your life change so you would serve God,
so the worship of God would come before all that the world tells us to worship?
How could we embrace our children with love rather than bury them in stuff?
What kind of community might we become so we offer alternatives to the wasteful, consumer
society in which we are immersed?

Prayer

Come with us, Christ Jesus,
in the land of waste,
where joy is reduced to a drink or a pill,
and a purchase promises happiness
Come with us, Christ Jesus into the wasteland.
Save us from the time of trial.

Sung Kyrie

Come with us, Christ Jesus,
in the land of temptation.
Come with us where the serpent's sly logic seduces,
where we choose not to know the harm we cause.

*Forgive us all the serving we do, which is not serving you.
for the grasp which reaches to have rather than to love.
Come with us, Christ Jesus into the wasteland.
Lead us not into temptation.*

Sung Kyrie

Come with us, Christ Jesus,
*in the wilderness where lives are wasted.
Come with us when we are famished for something,
unknown, unnamed, unadvertised
that points beyond the waste of our world,
the wasted parts of our lives.*
Come with us Christ Jesus.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us.

Sung Kyrie

Words of Assurance

Reader:

Then the devil left [Jesus], and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

At this point, an 'angel' (but not with wings or any special clothing) with a the tin bucket comes with just a little water in it. This person goes to three or four people in the congregation and puts the water on their forehead with the sign of the cross, a kind of washing away the ashes. This mimics the action from Ash Wednesday. Then this person takes the bucket to the baptismal font, and pours the water into the font. This should be very little water. Maybe the water is transferred with this person's fingers, treasuring it. The angel waits at the font.

P: Because Jesus himself is tempted, he is able to save us in our temptations. Because he is baptized, he washes us clean. Even when our lives become a wasteland, he leads us home. When we are parched and barren, he promises us a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

The Renunciations

Pastor

Please rise

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

The pastor goes to the font. The angel makes the sign of the cross on the pastor's forehead with the water.

The Apostle's Creed

Here at the font is the beginning of salvation from sin and death. We proclaim our faith using the creed of our baptism.

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 again 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

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Gathering of Gifts *O God, you planted a garden* choir
Words and music by Andrew Donaldson: Canada
O God, you planted a garden, a garden eastward in Eden.
You formed us there, you named us there; there we went our own way.
Eager to taste of evil and good, we plucked, we ate, we hid, we blamed;
but now, confessing, seek your face.

Refrain: Lead us in your way of justice, O God. Lead us in your way of peace.

O God, you planted a garden, a garden eastward in Eden.
You taught us there, walked with us there; there we went our own way.
Eager to learn the ways of wealth, we mined, we drilled, we squandered, spilled;
now oceans drown in our excess.

O God, you planted a garden, a garden eastward in Eden.
You blessed us there, amazed us there; there we went our own way.
Eager to grasp the ways of power, we built, we paved, we fenced, enslaved;
now all earth cries out for release.

Setting the table

Prayer over the gifts:

Gracious God,
*we offer you what you have first given us,
what you have risked wasting on us,
your love, your goodness, your blessing.*
*Use these gifts,
use our lives to worship you,
to serve you, and all those you love,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

This morning, when you come to communion, you are invited to pass by the baptismal font, and dip your hands in the water and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead. In the desert there is little water, so this morning there is not much in the font. But there is enough for all of us to feel the washing of the love of Jesus, as we come to the table.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

Light out of chaos,
Life out of dust,
Ark over the flood,
Promise like the multitude of stars,
Freedom through the sea,
 the waves like a wall on the right and the left,
Word enfleshed within the womb,
Water gushing up to eternal life.
You are worthy of our thanks.
With the Yangtse and the Euphrates,
with the Ganges and the Tigris,
with the Rio Grande and the Dniester,
with all the rivers flowing to the sea, singing your praise
we join your people of every time and place in the ancient hymn to your name.

Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed is the water of life,
blossoming in the desert
promising a new birth to an old theologian,
talking with a strange woman at a well,
healing a man born blind,
weeping over the death of a friend,
poured out, emptied, willing to be wasted for the love of the world.

Words of Institution

On the night when he was betrayed, he 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.

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.

Remembering we eat. Remembering we drink. Remembering, Christ Jesus is present with us. Our eating becomes life. Our drinking becomes salvation. We proclaim the mystery of our faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts to receive what you offer at this table,
love enough to conquer fear,
faith enough to take us through death to life,
hope enough to give us courage
to become one with Christ and with one another,
Christ's body and blood revealed for all people,
for his glory, and yours, in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer *(in our many languages)*

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.*

Agnus Dei

Communion

(Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people who recognize the presence of Christ at this meal, are welcome. Communion is continuous. Please come forward by each aisle. Receive the bread in your hands. Take the chalice from the server or help yourself to one of the small, individual glasses. Please return to your seat after receiving communion.)

Communion Songs

Thanksgiving for the interim pastorate of Stephen Larson

Benediction