



**PRAYER SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021  
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

God loves you all the time  
**And all the time God loves you.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity ✝ one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.  
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

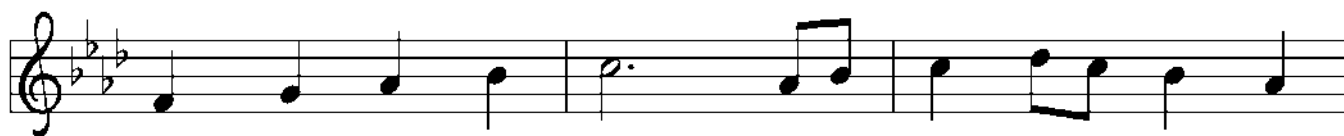
**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## OPENING DIALOGUE

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

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.**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

<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 25:1-10

<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 trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion 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 goodness,  
O LORD.

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

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly 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

<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.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

The gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.**



## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **THE MESSAGE**

### **PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

## APOSTLES' 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 into hell.**

**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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction (*especially . . . here local environmental concerns may be named*). Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

## 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 in peace. Share the good news.  
Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

### *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

ELW 326



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 - cy flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds 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.

## **Prayers of the Faithful for Week of February 21**

**TODAY we pray for:**

Family and friends of Dr. Loomis as they mourn his death  
Ben  
Nancy Miller  
Brian  
Pat Kizuka  
Polly Gillis  
Allen Whitley  
Stacy Dambaugh  
Sue, friend of JoAnne Deaton  
Roger Camp  
Krisida Alberto  
- all in our hearts and minds today.

### **WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

Louise Ench, Kathy Long, Gener Ernst, Barbara Hewlett, Russ & Joan Snyder, Clare Schoening, Scott; Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez, Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke, Kyle, Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck, Lena, Leslie, friend of Diane Teig, Jack Baskow, Claudia and Geof Bromfield, Scott & Lia Wycoff, The Fenner family, John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur, Mike Goyda, Lis Verbeck, Lois Snyder, Connie—mother of Karen Ehemann

David & Angie Wasgatt, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, Bob Waller, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Claire Schoening, Tyler, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl

For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Paige Evers

For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones

For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;

For all pastors and church leaders

For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.

For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the corvid-19 virus.

**To request a prayer, or update prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481)  
or email [office@glcde.org](mailto:office@glcde.org).**

### **Lent Week 1**

**Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things, and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.**

## LENT 2021

All worship services will be available all day on our website or Facebook page.

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Our *Midweek Lenten worship series* is “Open My Life, Lord” a cooperative series by Grace, Hope, St. Stephen’s and Bethel Lutheran churches of the Delmarva North Conference.

Each week we will hear a liturgy and meditation that invite God to open, lead and dwell within us:

February 24th—Open My Eyes, Lord

March 3rd—Open My Hands, Lord

March 10th—Open My Ears, Lord

March 17th—Open My Heart, Lord

March 24th—Open My Life, Lord

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As promised in the season of Advent, we will continue the Bible study or texts from *Handel’s Messiah* on Wednesdays in Lent at 7PM beginning February 24th. The study will be available on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URlNqK1pIUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577

Phone: Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcyc92mflx>

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### Covid Angels

To all those who have lost their loved ones due to the Corona-virus outbreak:

You are invited to email [durandettas@verizon.net](mailto:durandettas@verizon.net) or call (Toni—302-239-0364) and give the name/s of those close to you that have been lost due to Covid-19. We plan to put out the Angel remembrance display in March so please email the names by Sunday, February 28.



Peace and blessings, Toni Durandetta



Thanks to all who participated in our first shoebox float parade as we prepare for Lent. To view the video of the floats, visit Grace's Facebook page or go to

<https://youtu.be/1uVSGKY7TPI>.



## Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD

Though we look forward to the day when we can return to in-person dinners and worship at the LCM chapel, the students and I have “re-Zoomed” online gatherings for worship, Bible study, and leadership meetings for spring term 2021. These gifted young people inspire me with their hope and resilience, and it is a privilege to encourage and support them in their journeys of faith in Jesus.

We invite your particular prayers for creative hospitality and outreach, as we welcome new students this spring. Please also pray for discernment and guidance for our seniors, who are in the midst of seeking job opportunities or waiting to hear back from graduate schools, as they complete their last semester of study at UD. May LCM be a safe circle of community, faith formation, discipleship, prayer, and support for all students throughout these challenging times!

We are blessed to have members and pastors from many local congregations serving together on our Directing Committee (governing board) for Lutheran Campus Ministry, along with LCM alumni. You may see some familiar faces in the screenshot below, including our very supportive bishop, the Rev. Bill Gohl, who joined us for January’s online meeting. Together, we thank you for your ongoing prayers, support, financial gifts, and heartfelt care for campus ministry, as we continue our sail through uncharted waters. Together, we practice greater flexibility, creativity, and perseverance, as we follow Jesus and trust in God’s guidance and protection, no matter what.

May our Lord daily bless you and your loved ones with good health, courage, and hope!

In Christ, Mindy Holland †  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
(302) 368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org; lcmde.org



# SAVE THE DATE: 2021 Golf Classic

## Monday, October 4th, 2021



This year, LCS is holding our  
**Annual Golf Classic for Homelessness Prevention**  
**Monday, October 4th**  
**Bidermann Golf Club**

This new Fall date, a change from prior years, is to ensure we can all gather safely for a day of golf, food, and fun!

Corporate foursomes or individual players are available!

Sponsorship opportunities exist for businesses and organizations, large and small. We also offer additional marketing amenities for three other events during the year.

**To reserve your space or hear about sponsoring LCS, email [Alex Mazzei](#), Marketing Communications Coordinator.**

## *Here Comes Spring!*

Finally, spring is just a few short weeks away and here at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, we are ready! Take the usual spells of cold, snow, sleet, and other less than fun winter weather, and add to it the challenges that COVID-19 has awarded students and staff, and you have us all praying for brighter days.

Over the last weeks, our children started to return to the classrooms though some continue to meet virtually at the Hilltop Center. As a result, we continue to work with New Castle County to improve our connectivity which is coming along slowly but surely. In addition, Center Executive Director, Michelle Williams reports that we received a School Aged Remote Learning Support Grant totaling \$7500 to provide access for school aged children to virtual learning, both during and after school.

With the state legislature back in session in January and its Joint Finance Committee hard at work on a fiscal 2022 state budget, 'tis the season for grant applications. Michelle says the Hilltop Center submitted its annual Grant-in-Aid application for the same amount we requested for fiscal 2021, \$150,000. [Meanwhile, the state of Delaware continues to offer support through its COVID-19 relief funds. A Delaware Relief Grant was awarded to Hilltop in the amount of \\$15,000 which will soon increase by an additional \\$3000.](#)



Since its inception, the Hilltop Center has kept its students well fed, not just in quantity, but in quality too. Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh, reports that in just one recent month, the Center provided a total of “over 19 hundred free meals for the Early Learning and Care children through the Child and Adult Care Food Program....” In addition, “we claimed,” according to Brandon, “nearly 17 hundred free meals for school aged children.”

As for the quality piece, our Youth Services Director, Teresa Allen, says “youth participated in two snack cafés in December. Students prepared a healthy pizza using fresh ingredients like peppers, real cheese, and spinach. They also used a low sodium dough and tomato sauce.” Teresa says the “children made individual pizzas that were then placed in the oven by staff. Youth also had the opportunity to try pomegranates. Staff introduced the pomegranates to students and held a short discussion to familiarize students with them. After initial conversation, the youth were invited to taste them.”



No word on what they thought!

Finally, Center Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Crystal Ryley, reports that our students received a safety lesson from some of the best in Delaware, The Delaware State Fire School. “(The Fire School instructors) gave each family a ‘Holiday & Winter Safety’ toolkit that contained an activity book, crayons, and family resources. Families were also given hats and gloves for the winter season.”

Stay Safe and Healthy,

*Eric F. Mease*

*Member, Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center  
Board of Directors*



## COFFEE & CONNECT

Every Sunday on Zoom at 10:00AM

### Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184540007?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184540007?pwd=VW5Vb25JanJNdjdRK2hkRnZQZVpKdz09)

[pwd=VW5Vb25JanJNdjdRK2hkRnZQZVpKdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184540007?pwd=VW5Vb25JanJNdjdRK2hkRnZQZVpKdz09)

Meeting ID: 891 8454 0007

Passcode: Connect

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89184540007#,,,,\*5655226# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89184540007#,,,,\*5655226# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 891 8454 0007

Passcode: 5655226

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184540007?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184540007?pwd=VW5Vb25JanJNdjdRK2hkRnZQZVpKdz09)



**COFFEE & CONNECT**  
starts at 10:00am on Zoom

## Adult Education Opportunity

The study of **1 Peter “God’s Own People”** from the Book of Faith initiative through Augsburg Fortress continues this Sunday. Pastor Tara will be leading the study at 11 AM on Sunday mornings. You can participate through the “Coffee and Connect” link in this newsletter. Grab your coffee and snack and join in the discussion!

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Rev. David Wasgatt, Pastor Emeritus

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

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