

First Sunday in Lent, February 21 2021

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Gathering Song: Come, Now is the Time - CCLI#2430948

Verse: Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God, Come!

Chorus: One day every tongue will confess
You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who call upon You now

Welcome and Announcements

February Mission: Water Missions International

Confession *From Psalm 51 and Romans 7*

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

Congregation: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing.

(Silence for prayer and reflection)

P: Cleanse me and I will be clean;

C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 6-9 (selected verses) (NIV)

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the

creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”

So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

Gospel: Mark 6:32-52 (NIV)

So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five loaves and two fish.”

Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Message: "The Covenant and the Deep" - Pastor Daren Blanck

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

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

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at
the right hand of the Father. He will come
again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Words of Institution & Communion

A deacon of the congregation will offer a cup of prepackaged, sealed grape juice with a wafer for communion. If you are joining us at home, please use your own bread or crackers and wine or juice.

Communion Song: Holy Love - CCLI # 1774073

V 1: Many waters cannot quench Your love
Rivers cannot overwhelm it
Oceans of fear cannot conceal
Your love for me, Your love for me

Chorus: Holy love flow in me
Fill me up like the deepest sea
Like a crashing wave pouring over me
Holy love flow in me

V 2: Many sorrows cannot quench Your love
Darkness cannot overwhelm it
I will not fear Your love is here
To comfort me, You comfort me

Bridge: When I find You I find healing
When I find You I find peace
And I know that there's no river so wide
No mountain so high no ocean so deep
That You can't part the sea (*Chorus*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Song: Be the Center - CCLI# 2650429

V 1: Jesus, be the center
Be my source, be my light, Jesus

Chorus: Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus

V 2: Jesus, be the center
Be my hope, be my song, Jesus

V 3: Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide, Jesus

Benediction

Sending Song: Because of Your Love - CCLI#4662501

Verse: As we come into Your presence
We remember ev'ry blessing
That You've poured out so freely from above
Lifting gratitude and praises
For compassion so amazing
Lord we've come to give You thanks
For all You've done

Chorus: Because of Your love
We're forgiven
Because of Your love
Our hearts are clean
We lift You up with songs of freedom
Forever we're changed
Because of Your love

Sending

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia.

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