



Hope Lutheran Church

March 9, 2025 - Lent 1

Setting 2 (pages 116-137)

We express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw People. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Righteous God, in humility and repentance we bring our failures in caring, helping, and loving. We bring the pain we have caused others. We bring the injustice in society of which we are a part. We bring ourselves to the transforming power of your grace. Grant us the courage to accept the healing you offer and to turn again toward the sunrise of your reign. Help us walk with you in the promise of peace you have willed for all the children of the earth, and have made known to us in Christ Jesus.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In +Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn #461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie (page 120-21, led by Cantor Peter Clark)

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.***

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through

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Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.'

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91;1-2, 9-16 *(led by Cantor Peter Clark)*

R: *God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)*

You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty--

**²you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust." R**

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⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

¹⁰**no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation. R**

Second Reading – Romans 10:8b-13

But what does it say?

‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (page 125)

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised, we will trust your word.

Save us as you promised, we will trust your word.

Gospel – Luke 4:1-13

The Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

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Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Luke 4:1-13



It was a new beginning. Immediately after his baptism with no disciples yet, Jesus walked into the wilderness. Whatever he might have normally counted on like food, power, or protection was absent. It reminds me of the TV series *Alone*. He was vulnerable.

In that program people are left to fend for themselves in the Canadian wilderness completely alone. Through the days or weeks, they try to survive with just a few basic items take with them: an axe, a few fish hooks, a tarp, and so on. They deal with starvation, close encounters with bears, and the mental strains of being cut off from civilization. Each contestant is dropped into the wilderness with small five cameras, and asked to film their every move from at least two angles. The audience is witness to that journey.

We hear of the journey of Jesus and are told that he was supplied only with God's spirit at his baptism, which led him into the wilderness and got him through. When his alone time, including temptations, concluded we are told "*he returned in the power of the spirit to Galilee.*"

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What is it that we need to learn from this story?

Alone, tired and vulnerable

He was alone in an empty place for forty days. Weak, weary, vulnerable is not a good situation to be in. Maybe you know what that is like. No one to talk to. Nothing to do. Nowhere to go. You don't even feel much like eating, at first. Forty days is a long time. For some people it can be a way of life.

He was determined to take that journey. Could he weather the storms ahead, could he keep his head when all others were losing theirs, could he walk that lonely valley when he had to walk it on his own? We know the end of the story. He probably had his ups and downs in those many weeks, but he got through. We are glad he didn't fail. What about us?

God present in our wilderness? What is that like? The majority of Jesus' ministry happened in places other than a building. Usually he was near the water, on roads, on hills, or at a table. We saw him in synagogues too, but the spirit of God was not contained in a building. God was in the wilderness. God was with him. God is with us. The story starts to unfold.

We will never be tempted or able to turn stone into bread with magic powers. Few of us will be given the option to be powerful world leaders. And taking a flying leap to prove something about God's care? We are not that naive or ridiculous. God was with him when he was hungry, when there was no one else, and as he weakened. He would discover that again on a cross. God was always with him. God is with us in our wilderness.

I remember from my years of prison chaplaincy that the hardest time that inmates serve while in prison is solitary confinement. The warden is obligated to visit those in dissociation once every week to ensure their mental health. Isolation is not a break, but can break a person.

The devil

During extended periods of being alone things happen. Thoughts come and go, sometimes positive but more often negative. My own head is commonly filled with a lot of noise I have to sift through: memories, feelings, ideas. Depending on how I focus, my frame of mind is affected.

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Thoughts that ridicule or cause despair, blame others or whisper, “*Poor me, poor me*” are rarely from God. Where does that thinking come from? Is it from the devil? Whatever evil means to us, this story gives us a handle. My time working with people in prison persuaded me that dark negative thoughts will get the best of us if we let them. Especially if we are weak, weary and vulnerable like Jesus was. It sounds devilish to me.

There is so much negative stuff happening around us all the time. People have told me that they have quit watching the news. Politics, tariffs, ultimatums, etc., gets them down. Why dwell on it? Maybe that is why St. Paul advises, “*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*”¹ That might also be said like this for us today: *Thou shalt not obsess on the negative.* Jesus kept a focus on what was good and that he belonged to God. That God was with him took Jesus through the wilderness.

When the devil started talking to him, he was alone, tired and weak. Promises of God’s care were what he used to counter that. When challenged about God’s his identity, God’s provision, or what was really important, Jesus remained firm that God was with him. That was sufficient.

With us

Because we are baptized, faith dares to say: *When I am alone God is with me. When I am tired, and discouraged God remains. I am God’s child. I will get through this empty place. God’s people remind me of that. I will sing. I will think on what is good. I will find a friend. I will be a friend. I will see God in this world and offer my hands, my heart, and my life to God’s spirit with us.*

The spirit is **with** us. God was **with** Jesus, and then he was **with** his disciples. Disciples are called to be **with** others. We begin to recognize that by taking a step toward someone, using a name, being friendly. As we start to be **with** people, we begin to see that we are not alone. God is present. Life is not just a wilderness of aging, weakening and dying. God is **with** us. We are **with** each other.

¹ Philippians 4:8

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Lent leads us through our wilderness. We are not alone in empty places. We are God's own beloved people and always will be. Jesus took that promise of baptism with him wherever he went. It will get us through too.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day #319 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

Installation of newly elected Church Council members

Jamie Enders & John Musgreave

Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence)

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. We pray for **Bishop Kathy Martin**; for *Faith Lutheran* in Powell River; and for *Our Saviour's Lutheran* in Prince George. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, prime ministers, presidents, premiers, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or

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lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill, especially....

Shauna B; Sigrid C; Cynthia C; Judy F; Gary G; Ahmad H & family; Dennis K; Donna K; Don & Vicki; Kari K; Colleen M; Marjorie M; Shirley M; Steven M; Katja R; Colette S; Doug S; Pastor Kristen Steele; Dave S; Colin F; June V-C; Gloria; Susana; Annie; Trisha; Zack; Sonja; Doug C & family; family of Janet T; Lane W & family; Roy H & family; Vi A; Pope Francis; Cody E; the family of Sivert V; the family of Sigrid C.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

The Peace [*unmute*]

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,
or some other gesture of peace)*

The Offering & Offertory

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(Pastor continues...)

Holy, holy, holy (*page 130*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. (pastor continues)

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...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.***

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...***

Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion *(those on Zoom will be communed first, then those in the sanctuary)*

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Lamb of God *(Hymnal, Setting 2, page 135)*

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.

Communion Hymns:

Hymn #778 The Lord's My Shepherd

Hymn #785 When Peace Like a River

Blessing:

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

+ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song #793 Be Thou My Vision

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Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

+

Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: *John Collett (musician selecting hymns):*

Cantor: *Peter Clark*

Reader: *Lisbeth Scott*

Intercessions: *Dorothy Pagan*

Communion Assistants: *Marilyn, Carolyn, Laurie*

Zoom Techs: *Gail Smith, Glenn Harvey*

Zoom Host: *Dorothy Pagan*

Ushers: *Fred & Carol Wilke*

Piano: *Pippa Williams*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

Readings for the next Sunday, March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Announcements:

- A *Memorial Service* for **Sivert Vedoy** will take place at Hope on **Thursday, March 20 @ 1:00 pm.**