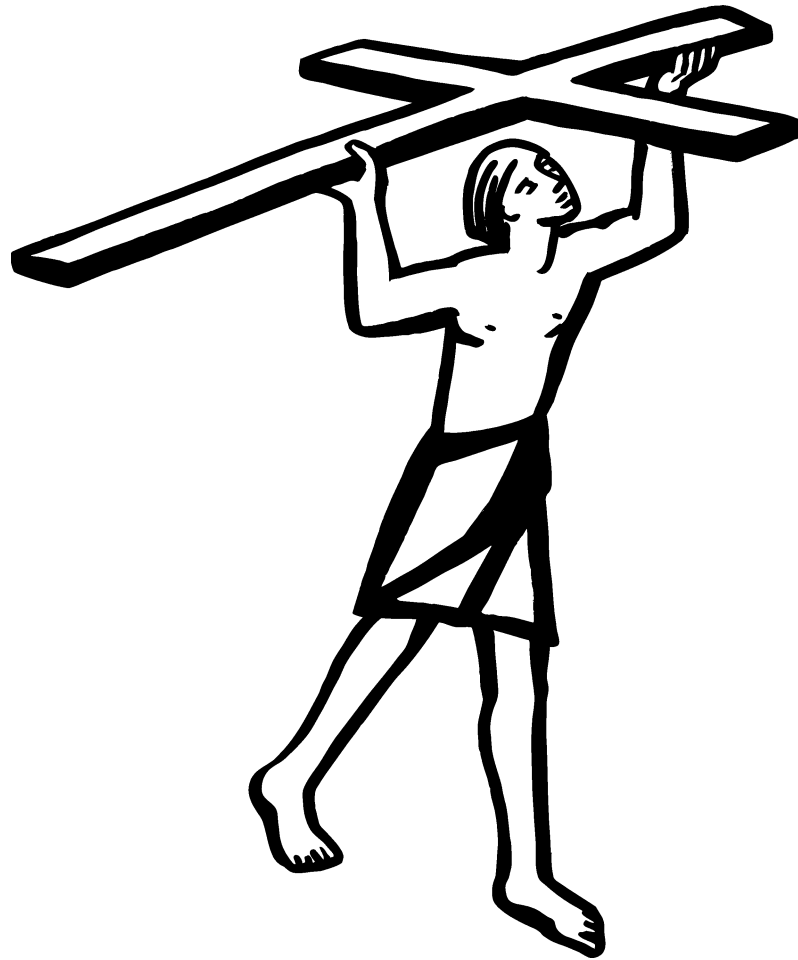


Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 28, 2021



GATHERING

Welcome

Gathering Song – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who oe’r all things is wondrously reigning;
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
as with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Greeting

The peace 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

Let us pray...

Gracious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie – “Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace”

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia

WORD

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew...

Glory to you, O Lord

Holy Gospel – Matthew 14: 13-21

After Jesus heard about the death of John the Baptist, he crossed the Sea of Galilee to go to some place where he could be alone. But the crowds found out and followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw the large crowd. Filled with compassion, he healed their sick.

That evening the disciples came to Jesus and said, “This place is like a desert, and it is already late. Let the crowds leave, so they can go to the villages and buy some food.”

Jesus replied, “They don’t have to leave. Why don’t you give them something to eat?”

But they said, “We have only five small loaves of bread and two fish.”

Jesus asked his disciples to bring the food to him, and he told the crowd to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Then he broke the bread and handed it to his disciples, and they gave it to the people. After everyone had eaten all they wanted, Jesus' disciples picked up twelve large baskets of leftovers.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day – “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Lord, whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross forsaken,
worked your mercy’s perfect deed;
We, your servants bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart:
Consecrating to your purpose
Every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As You, Lord, in deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power

To our world to make it whole

As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light,
in its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our human sight:
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to faithful service,
Your abundant life to share.
Called from worship into service
Forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give
That your children, Lord, in freedom,
May your mercy know and live.

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Offering

Offertory – Hymn #186 – “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

*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.*

Passing of the Peace

Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song - "We Are Called"

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

Come, open your heart
Show your mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more (*Refrain*)

Sing, sing a new song
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love...(*Refrain*)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Lenten Forums

The traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and works of love. One way we will live this out during Lent this year is by offering two adult forums.

Life at the Border (Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 PM at Vang): In January of last year, a group from Vang traveled to El Paso, TX and heard firsthand accounts of life at the border. We have put together some videos about the experience. Come for conversation, to hear about the amazing work being done by ELCA churches in the area, and to hear stories of people who seek to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” in our borderlands.

The Ethics of Care: Understanding Racism (Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 PM at Vang) Talking about race is not easy. It takes courage to try. But when we do so not from a place of guilt or shame, but from a place of empathy, compassion, and humility, good things can happen. Come hear a clear and concise video presentation from a University of Minnesota Distinguished Professor of Family Therapy about what racism is, what it isn't, and how you can be a part of the healing.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, March 7 -

Worship at Vang – 9:00 AM **Reader:** Rachael Johnson

Worship at Dennison – 11:00 AM **Reader:** Joe Amy (A brief worship service will be followed by Dennison Lutheran's annual meeting.)

Special Prayers for: Liala Hedstrom, Danny Brockton, Bob Mitchell, Nick Iverson, Norma Sands, Lowell Anderson Larry Buchta, Tim Larson, LuAnn Lervik, Stanley Nord, Suncha Buchta, Chuck Wells, all of our homebound people, service members and their families, and for all those in need of healing and strength.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

A Love That Lets Go

Sometimes we are just not to be trusted with the task of loving. When we really, really love someone or something, our fingers can grasp too tightly, and our fists clench a little too firmly. For fear of losing what we love, we can squeeze the life out of what we were trying to protect.

Today, Jesus announces the trajectory of his mission: he is going to be put to death after great suffering and rejection, and he is going to be raised from the dead on the third day. This announcement sends Peter's hands reaching out to hold onto Jesus with fierce firmness. Peter doesn't want to lose the one he loves, and he goes so far as to shame and criticize Jesus for his words.

Have you ever acted like Peter, letting fear of losing someone you love thwart your ability to actually love them?

When Jesus says that those who try to save their lives are going to lose their lives, he is talking about our instinct to hold on too tightly to the things that we love. Somewhere in this move, our love actually becomes control. In the moment when the instinct to control takes hold, love and life are lost.

Jesus' words invite us to back up. We acknowledge our tight grip on God, on each other, on our own hearts. We let a little air in to those places where our tight grip has been suffocating life. We gather to worship a God who loves this world so deeply that God would rather die at our hands than coerce us into reciprocating that love. Today, we come to know God's love, which never seeks to control or pin us down, but which breathes life into the world.