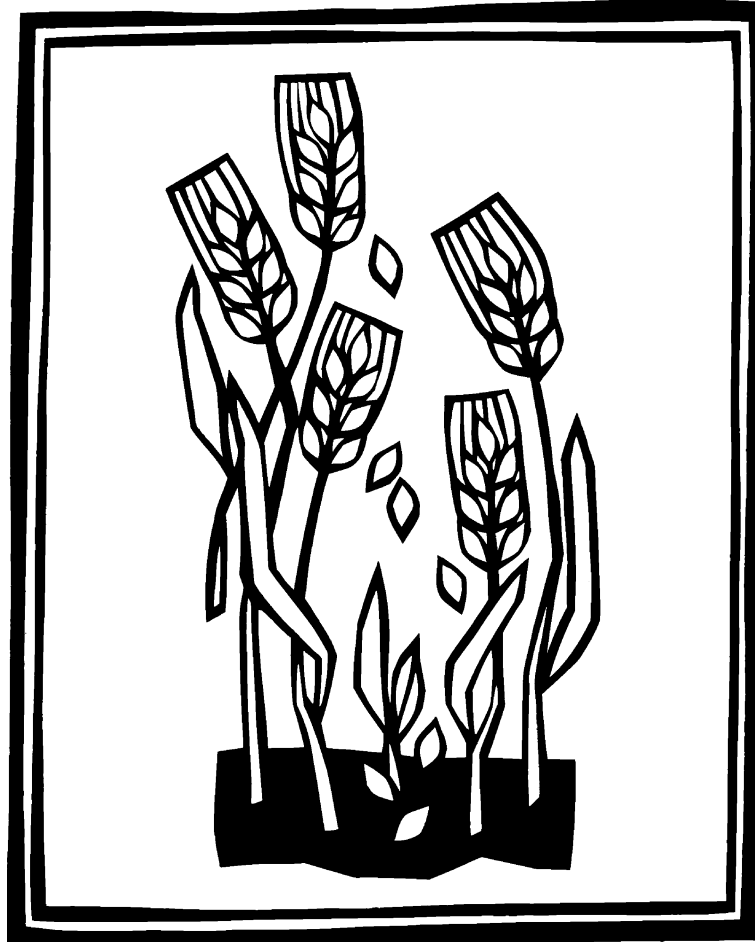


# Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 21, 2021



## **GATHERING**

### **Welcome**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, and Confession and Forgiveness begins)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gracious God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of mercy,

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word,  
and deed, by what we have done,  
and what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

### **Gathering Song**

### **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.**

### **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

## Children's Message

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**<sup>13</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**Holy Gospel:** John 12: 20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Song of the Day**

**Prayers of the People**

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**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.*

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Distribution of Communion**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

### **SENDING**

### **Sending Song**

### **Blessing**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Announcements**

### **Vang Congregational Meeting on April 11**

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting at Vang on Sunday, April 11, following the 11:00 AM service. The purpose of the Congregational Meeting is to approve two additional council members. This is to correct an incomplete ballot from the annual meeting due to incomplete information given to the nominating committee. Approving the amended ballot will be the only agenda item, so we anticipate the meeting to be very brief.

**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 28**

Worship at Vang – 9:00 AM    **Reader: Eric Nesseth**

**Special Prayers for:** Liala Hedstrom, Danny Brockton, Bob Mitchell, Nick Iverson, Norma Sands, Lowell Anderson Larry Buchta, Marianne King, 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.



Holy Week begins March 28 on Palm Sunday. Please mark your calendars for these Holy Week services. Please also note that all services are being planned in accordance with safety guidelines.

**Palm Sunday (March 28)** - 9:00 AM at Vang. Processional with Palms, and hearing the Passion story.

**Maundy Thursday (April 1)** – 7:00 PM at Vang – On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. The fifth graders will receive their first communion at the Maundy Thursday service.

**Good Friday (April 2)** – 9:00 AM at First Lutheran and 6:00 PM at First Lutheran

We are collaborating KW area churches for Good Friday. The 9:00 AM service will be an in-person worship service at First Lutheran, and will also be recorded and available online. The 6:00 PM Good Friday service will be a community “Way of the Cross” service in the parking area at First Lutheran. Around a bonfire, there will be an outdoor worship time based on Stations of the Cross. The worship experience will feature the passion story, prayer, and music, and reflections on Jesus’ journey to the cross.

In case of rain or bad weather, there will be a Good Friday service at Vang at 6:00 PM

**Easter Sunday (April 4)** Dennison – 9:00 AM

Vang – 11:00 AM

**Easter Breakfast** – 10:00 AM at Vang. The Easter breakfast this year will be outside in the lawn area. Prewrapped baked goods, coffee, and juice will be available. Funds from the Easter Breakfast will go towards the ELCA Youth Gathering in

the summer of 2022.

**Easter Egg Hunt**-10:00-11:00 am during the Easter breakfast on the Vang church lawn.

## ***GOSPEL MESSAGE***

### **Life Not Thwarted by Death**

On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our heads, allowing our truth to be exposed: we are mortal; we are dust. We spoke a confession, and more and more truth bubbled up, truth that so often is suppressed: we are broken; we have fallen short; we are implicated in the muck of systemic sin. On Ash Wednesday we agreed: we are done putting on airs.

Jesus has never been one for putting on airs, and so today we find him living the consequence of a truthful, authentic life. He has raised Lazarus from the dead, he has attracted a following, and the religious authorities are afraid for themselves and their people living under Roman occupation that Jesus is about to bring Rome down upon their heads. They are actively seeking to silence Jesus for the sake of the nation.

We meet Jesus today facing down the choice either to bury his truth in order to stay safe or to let the truth of his life be known and therefore risk being buried. Jesus chooses to let his truth and his light shine, knowing he will be buried for it. Despite the way it troubles his soul, he is clear that this is what he has come to do. Like the wheat seed that dies to create life in a new stalk of grain, Jesus' life will not be thwarted by the threat of death.

When you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ's life; the seed of your life was buried in Christ. When you dine at Christ's table, you take his life into your own. His fearless, free, unearthed, burgeoning life is yours. You are free, O church, from the work of appeasing others, of contorting yourself to stay safe, of quieting your unique and therefore potent voice, of finding creative ways to hide the light that is in you. Your life will not be thwarted by death. So, live.