

# *Sexagesima*

February 7, 2021



**Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**281 Spruce Ln, Boone Iowa 50036**

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#### 401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born

- 1 From God the Father, virgin-born To us the only Son came down;  
By death the font to consecrate, The faithful to regenerate.
- 2 Beginning from His home on high, In human flesh He came to die;  
Creation by His death restored, And shed new joys of life abroad.
- 3 Glide on, O glorious Sun, and bring The gift of healing on Your wing;  
To ev'ry dull and clouded sense The clearness of Your light dispense.
- 4 Abide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of darkness chase away;  
Your work of healing, Lord, begin, And take away the stain of sin.
- 5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain And, we believe, shall come again;  
Be with us on the battlefield, From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

△6 To You, O Lord, all glory be For this Your blest epiphany;  
To God, whom all His hosts adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father, **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your

**beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

### **Introit**

Awake, why sleepest Thou, O Lord?:

**Arise, cast us not off forever.**

Wherefore hidest Thou Thy face:

**and forgettest our affliction?**

Our soul is bowed down to the dust:

**arise for our help and redeem us.**

We have heard with our ears, O God:

**our fathers have told us what work Thou didst in their days.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

Awake, why sleepest Thou, O Lord?:

**Arise, cast us not off forever.**

Wherefore hidest Thou Thy face:

**and forgettest our affliction?**

Our soul is bowed down to the dust:

**arise for our help and redeem us.**

### **Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 187*

**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,  
we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly**

**King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray: O God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do : mercifully grant that by Thy power, we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 55:10–13*

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Epistle**

*2 Corinthians 11:19—12:9*

<sup>19</sup>For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! <sup>20</sup>For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking

as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup>on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup>in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup>And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup>but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands. <sup>1</sup>I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Tract

*Psalm 60:1-2, 5*

O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us,  
Thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.  
Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it:  
Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.  
That thy beloved may be delivered;  
Save with thy right hand, and hear me.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 8:4-15*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>4</sup>When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” <sup>9</sup>And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup>he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’” <sup>11</sup>Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup>And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup>And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

### **823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace**

- 1 May God bestow on us His grace,  
With blessings rich provide us;  
And may the brightness of His face  
To life eternal guide us,  
That we His saving health may know,  
His gracious will and pleasure,  
And also to the nations show  
Christ's riches without measure  
And unto God convert them.

2 Thine over all shall be the praise  
And thanks of ev'ry nation;  
And all the world with joy shall raise  
The voice of exultation.  
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,  
Nor suffer sin to flourish;  
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word  
Their souls to feed and nourish,  
In righteous paths to keep them.

△3 O let the people praise Thy worth,  
In all good works increasing;  
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,  
Thy Word is rich in blessing.  
May God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit bless us!  
Let all the world praise Him alone,  
Let solemn awe possess us.  
Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"

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## Sermon

### Offertory

*LSB 192*

**☒ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

[ Offering ]

### Prayer of the Church

## Preface

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 195*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 196*

**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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

*LSB 197*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the

disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### **Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.      **C** Amen.

### **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

### **Distribution**

#### **820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker**

- 1 My soul, now praise your Maker! Let all within me bless His name  
Who makes you full partaker Of mercies more than you dare claim.  
Forget Him not whose meekness Still bears with all your sin,  
Who heals your ev'ry weakness, Renews your life within;  
Whose grace and care are endless And saved you through the past;  
Who leaves no sufferer friendless But rights the wronged at last.
  
- 2 He offers all His treasure Of justice, truth, and righteousness,  
His love beyond all measure, His yearning pity o'er distress;  
Nor treats us as we merit But sets His anger by.  
The poor and contrite spirit Finds His compassion nigh;  
And high as heav'n above us, As dawn from close of day,  
So far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins away.

- 3 For as a tender father Has pity on his children here,  
God in His arms will gather All who are His in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers, Who but from dust are made.  
We flourish like the flowers, And even so we fade;  
The wind but through them passes, And all their bloom is o'er.  
We wither like the grasses; Our place knows us no more.
- 4 His grace remains forever, And children's children yet shall prove  
That God forsakes them never Who in true fear shall seek His love.  
In heav'n is fixed His dwelling, His rule is over all;  
O hosts with might excelling, With praise before Him fall.  
Praise Him forever reigning, All you who hear His Word—  
Our life and all sustaining. My soul, O praise the Lord!

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### 586 Preach You the Word

- 1 Preach you the Word and plant it home  
To men who like or like it not,  
The Word that shall endure and stand  
When flow'rs and men shall be forgot.
- 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task  
Your servant bade us undertake:  
To preach Your Word and never ask  
What prideful profit it may make.
- 3 The sower sows; his reckless love  
Scatters abroad the goodly seed,  
Intent alone that all may have  
The wholesome loaves that all men need.
- 4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched  
And some be choked and matted flat,  
The sower sows; his heart cries out,  
"Oh, what of that, and what of that?"

5 Of all his scattered plenteousness  
One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,  
And bears a harvest hundredfold:  
“Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!”

6 Preach you the Word and plant it home  
And never faint; the Harvest Lord  
Who gave the sower seed to sow  
Will watch and tend His planted Word.

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### **577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**

1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not the sly satanic foe  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

4 So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: Public domain

## 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 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!
  
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er 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?
  
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.
  
- 4 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.
  
- 5 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!

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## Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 199*

**☩** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Thanksgiving

*LSB 200*

**☩** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**☩** and His mercy endureth forever.

**☩** Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **☩** Amen.

**☩** The Lord be with you.

**☩** And with thy spirit.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 202*

**☩** Bless we the Lord.

**☩** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*LSB 202*

**☩** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace. **☩** Amen, amen, amen.

## 834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,  
Thy living finger never wrote  
That life should be an aimless mote,  
A deathward drift from futile birth.  
Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled  
In splendor through Thy broken world.  
Since light awoke and life began,  
Thou hast desired Thy life for man.

2 Our fatal will to equal Thee,  
Our rebel will wrought death and night.  
We seized and used in prideful spite  
Thy wondrous gift of liberty.  
We housed us in this house of doom,  
Where death had royal scope and room,  
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace,  
Breached all its walls for our release.

3 Thou camest to our hall of death,  
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
To drink for us the dark despair  
That strangled our reluctant breath.  
How beautiful the feet that trod  
The road that leads us back to God!  
How beautiful the feet that ran  
To bring the great good news to man!

△4 O Spirit, who didst once restore  
Thy Church that it might be again  
The bringer of good news to men,  
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,  
That in these gray and latter days  
There may be those whose life is praise,  
Each life a high doxology  
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

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## **SEXAGESIMA**

Scripture Alone – The Sower sows the seed of His Word

(Luke 8:4-15). This Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:9–13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Corinthians 11:19–12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Isaiah 55:10–13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

Those who hear the Word and steadfastly hold onto it also risk and suffer everything for it. Thus they also do good in love to their neighbor. So he says, “With patience,” for such people must suffer much for the sake of the Word; insults and disgrace from the fanatics and heretics; hate and insults with injury to body and goods from the persecutors, not to mention what the thorns and afflictions of their own flesh do. This is rightly called a Word that belongs to the cross. For whoever will hold it must bear and overcome cross and misfortune with patience.

– Martin Luther

### **About Gesimatide / Pre-Lent**

The season of Gesimatide serves to ease the transition for the faithful from the joy of the Epiphany season into the holy, penitential nature of the season of Lent. This Pre-Lent starts at about 70 days out from Easter to parallel the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity of the ancient Israelites. This parallel reminds us that we are each called by God and taken on a journey from the exile and captivity of sin to our promised home in the New Jerusalem to come on the Last Day.

The Sundays in Pre-Lent are named after the time out from Easter they signify (they do not correspond to the exact times): Sexagesima means “sixtieth”; Quinquagesima means “fiftieth.”