

Second Sunday of Lent



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ELW Service of the Word

St. Paul Lutheran Church—February 28, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to the day

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

PRELUDE

Medley of Lenten Hymns

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins.
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace 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

Kyrie Eleison

*'La Folia' one of the oldest remembered European musical themes,
in Finland known as 'Lampaan polska'*

Trad.

D⁵

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy. Lord have

6 Dm A
mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy. Her - ra ar - mah - da.

11 Dm A Dm A Dm A Dm
Kris - tus ar - mah - da. Her - ra ar - mah - da. Kris - tus ar - mah - da.

17 F C Dm A
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

21 Dm A Dm A Dm
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

25 F C C[#]dim Dm A
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

29 Dm A B[>] Gm A Dm
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord. **Thank be to God.**



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

Psalm 22:27

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²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;**

but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever! R

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null, and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Luther Zeigler

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul, from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.
 Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Heptaria Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

A Brief Silence

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit including those on our prayer list and those whose names we offer now...; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died. That your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children, you know the secrets of our hearts.
When we sin and stray from your paths,
you astound us with your saving grace.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

Loving Jesus, living Word,
in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found.
Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we need not fear,
for you are with us.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus,
giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.
For this Word of life,
we give you thanks.

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

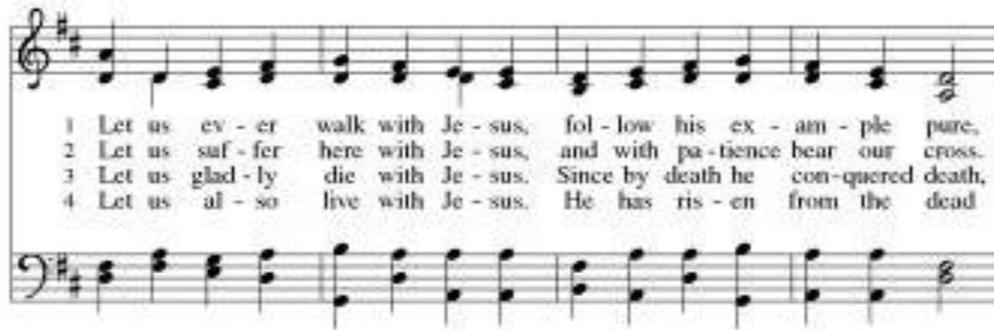
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

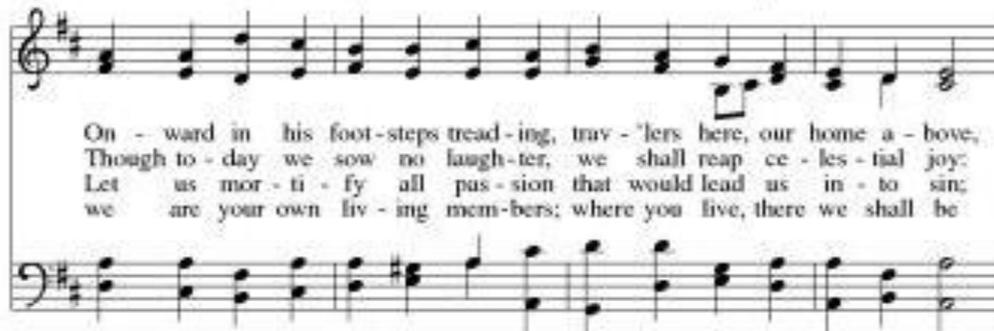
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss,
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath,
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding,
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me,

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

My Heart Is Filled with Longing

Johannes Brahms

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Luther Zeigler

Reader: Joanne Peterson

Cantor: Fred Peterson

A/V Support: Anne Wheeler and Craig Morrill

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1123 Washington St., Gloucester, MA 01930

978-283-6550, office@stpaulcapeann.org

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR RIGHT AFTER THE SERVICE

A short, social gathering will be held on Zoom immediately after the service. If you want to participate, just stay signed on to Zoom and Luther will join just as soon as the postlude concludes. Our hope is that this will be a way to interact on Sunday mornings beyond our shared worship. It may not be a real coffee hour, but we'll make it fun!

WHAT IS OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY DOING FOR LENT?

For each of the 40 Days of Lent, we will be sharing a spiritual micro-practice to help us stay connected in prayer and practice while we are still unable to physically gather. The micro-practices will be posted on Facebook and Instagram, and/or emailed to anyone who would like to participate. The micro-practices are also available in a booklet form for those who prefer that option.

WHAT'S A MICRO-PRACTICE?

A micro-practice is a small spiritual practice. Instead of engaging the same spiritual practice throughout Lent, the micro-practices are meant to give a sample across many different styles of practices. Some are active, some are reflective. They will make you think, take action, connect with God and others, and live into your Christian life.

Email Robin at familyministry@stpaulcapeann.org or call the office at 978-283-6550 if you would like a booklet mailed to you or daily offerings emailed to you. Some booklets have been placed in the bin outside of the pre-school door for pick-up as well.

LEAD GARDEN STEWARD NEEDED!

Kathy is stepping down as our lead garden steward.

Would you like to step in and add to the evolution of beauty in our church gardens?

Your role:

- Plan, plant and tend the gardens Spring through Fall (planting, dead-heading, weeding . . .)
- Trim small trees as needed, edge gardens
- Ask for helpers for specific seasonal jobs (especially weeding and watering)
- Schedule and ask for help for bi-annual cleanups (always plenty of helpers when needed)

Please contact the office if you have questions or to volunteer for this role!

OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTOR LUTHER ZEIGLER

Pastor Luther will be in the church offices every Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and it available for individual visits from 10 a.m. to Noon and from 2-3 p.m. He is happy to meet inside or outside, using all necessary precautions regarding distancing and wearing masks. Please call him (617-999-6419) or email him (luther.zeigler@gmail.com) if you would like to make an appointment. He is also always available for pastoral emergencies.

PRAYER LISTS

Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week: Daneen R., Sonny M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Willy G., Jim W., Brian D., Ron M., Judith O., Rachael and Tyler, Verna, Ron F.

Remembrance: Please keep Pr. Tim Roser in your prayers. He passed away on Monday, February 15, 2021 in the company of his family, including his wife Pr. Anne Roser. May he rest in peace and may all who loved him also find peace.

Please keep Mark Wilczek ad Judith Oleson in your prayers as they mourn the passing of Mark's mother, Myrna Wilczek. May she rest in peace and may all who loved her find peace.

Armed services: Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

Please see the FYI emails for more information