## Second Sunday in Lent

## ~ February 25, 2024 ~

## St. John’s & St. Peter’s

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**  Page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from 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.

***C:*** ***Amen.***

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

P: Most merciful God,

***C: 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 by 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.***

P: 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.

***C:*** ***Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“How Firm a Foundation”*** Hymn #796

Vs. 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
 is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
 What more can he say than to you he has said
 who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

Vs. 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

Vs. 3 "When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie,
 my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
 The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
 your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

Vs. 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
 my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
 and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
 like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

 **Greeting** Page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** Page 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: 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.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

 **Prayer of the Day**

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, or 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.*

When 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. **2**And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” **3**Then 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. **5**No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **6**I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. **7**I 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.

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

**Psalm 22:23-31**

**23**You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s live, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel!
**24For the Lord did not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.**

**25**From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.
**26The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.**

**27**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**28For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**

**29**Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead shall kneel before the Lord.
**30Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
31**They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!:”

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.**

**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.*

**13**The 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. **14**If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15**For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

**16**For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, **17**as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+4%3A13-25&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-28025a)] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. **18**Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” **19**He 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), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. **20**No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, **21**being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **22**Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” **23**Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone **24**but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, **25**who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Gospel Acclamation**  Page 142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and

Merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in

Steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Gospel**: **Mark 8:31-38**

*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. **32**He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33**But 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.”

**34**He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For 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. **36**For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? **37**Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? **38**Those 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.”

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”***  ELW #634

Vs. 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
 bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
 Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

Vs. 2 O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Vs. 3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call --
 the God incarnate, man divine -- and crown him Lord of all.
 The God incarnate, man divine -- and crown him Lord of all.

Vs. 4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
 go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

**Apostles’ Creed**  ELW pg. 105

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 the People**

 **“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation and the world in need.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, Sams, teachers and leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth’s waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved especially

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ’s sacrificial love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to your for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**.

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace** Page 138

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** *Hymn #686*

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving**  ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C:*** ***And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C:*** ***We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C:*** ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C:*** ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***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.

**Sending Hymn *“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”*** *Hymn #802*

Vs. 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
 through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits allure.
 Onward in his footsteps treading, trav’lers here, our home above,,
 full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior’s bidding.
 Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Vs. 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.

 Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.

 Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;

 All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth here-after.

 Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.

Vs. 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,
 he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.

 Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;

 And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.

 Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.

Vs. 4 Let us also live with Jesus; He has risen from the dead,
 that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head.
 We are your own living members, where you live, there we shall be

In your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
 Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. ***We will! Thanks be to God!***