

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 24 & 25, 2018 5:00 & 8:15



AS WE GATHER

“Don’t make promises you can’t keep.” This old proverbial saying is a good one. If a person heeds it, they can avoid a heap of trouble! In today’s Old Testament Reading, God Himself makes a promise that seems impossible to keep. The Lord appears to a ninety-nine-year-old man and promises him descendants, and not just a few descendants, but that he will be the father of a multitude of nations. Thankfully, God never makes promises He can’t keep. Through the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham, the Lord ultimately provides a descendant by whom all nations would be blessed—Jesus Christ, the Son of Abraham, the Son of God. Through Him, God promises you forgiveness, life, and salvation—a promise that the Lord will keep!

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*



WELCOME

✦ **PREPARATION** ✦

OPENING HYMN “Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord” *LSB 935*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Pow’rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm in His promise, and His mercies sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children’s children and forevermore!

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: O Lord, throughout these forty days
People: **You prayed and kept the fast.**

Pastor: Inspire repentance for our sins.
People: **And free us from our past!**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

*(If you would like private confession and absolution,
please call the office (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)*

Pastor: 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.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve 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 suffering and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

[OR]

Seminary Student: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

LSB 186

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

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray, God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength.

People: **By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

✠ WORD ✠



OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16* (God renames Abram and Sarai.)

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,² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.⁷ And 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 And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–11* (“We were reconciled to God.”)

⁵Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422

**On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!**



HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 8:27–38* (Take up your cross and follow Me.)

The congregation is invited to speak the scripture in bold

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁷ And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they told him, “**John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.**” ²⁹ And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “**You are the Christ.**” ³⁰ And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. ³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” ³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE “Jesus Remember Me”

LSB 767

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. REPEAT

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

LSB 708

**Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me.**

**Earth has no pleasure I would I would share. Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.**

**And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not!
I trust Thy Word.**

Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in every place May glorify Thy lavish grace
And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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:
People: Lord, have mercy.

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

Pastor: For Pastor Matthew Harrison, our synodical president, Pastor Lee Hagen, our district president,
Pastor Matthew Clark, our pastor, and for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and
for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and
strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who are ailing (*names*) and those who grieve, that they may be strengthened in body and
spirit, confident of the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For *(additional bids for prayer may be inserted here)*, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS 5:00 PM “The Lamb” *Ascension Choir*

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

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



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at Ascension in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. All those who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, 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 singing:

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9* *LSB 195*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth; 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)* *LSB 162*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" *LSB 434*

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer,
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "When Peace Live a River" *LSB 763*

**When peace like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain: It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

He lives oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

“Lift High the Cross”

LSB 837

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

“Salvation Unto Us Has Come”

LSB 555

Salvation unto us has come By God’s free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

What God did in His law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev’ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

**From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain. Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart
So deep is our corruption.**

**Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.**

**Since Christ has full atonements made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Your death is now my life indeed.
For You have paid my ransom.**

**Let me not doubt, but truly see Your word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!" No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name, May faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.**

**The Law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.**

**Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify; Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.**

**All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.**

(Please Stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" *LSB 418, v.1 & 4*

**O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven's praise.**



BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen.

(Please Note: 5:00 Ascension Choir sings v. 2 & 4; 8:15 Congregation sings all verses)

**“Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake, “All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide, Take My example for your guide.**

*“I am the light, I light the way A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.*

**“My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, On Him I call.**

*“I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul’s salvation,
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav’nly goal.”*

**Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff’ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain The crown of heavn’ly life obtain.**

POSTLUDE

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