

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 2024

10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Introduction

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.

Hope against Hope

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped "against hope" (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he "must" suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject "the things of God." Why must it be so?

Because of God's great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God's world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He "must" do this because the world's brokenness is that deep. We don't need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God's grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death's power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world's injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God's mercy with a world longing for hope.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

G C D C G C

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your

D C G C D C

prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,

G C Dsus D G C

I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth

D C G C

to show the way, from the earth to the cross,

D C G C

my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,

D Em7 Am7 Dsus D G C/G G

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

OPENING LITANY *from Psalm 22*

Stand before the Lord;

Honor his name with songs of praise.

**You have not hidden your face from me,
but you heard when I cried out to you.**

Glorify the Lord with reverence and awe:

**You, O Lord, are the source of my praise;
in the great congregation I will praise you.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

GATHERING SONGS

Blessed Be Your Name

(Verse 1 - All)

**Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be your name.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be your name.**

(Refrain - All)

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be your name.**

(Verse 4 - All)

**Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be your name.**

(Refrain - All)

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the name of the Lord;**

**Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers / **All**)

You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
“Lord, blessed be your name.”
**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
“Lord, blessed be your name.”**

(Refrain - **All**)

**Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

~~~~~  
*Jesus, Son of God*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

You came down from heaven's throne  
This earth you formed was not your home  
A love like this the world had never known.  
A crown of thorns to mock your name.  
Forgiveness fell upon your face.  
A love like this the world had never known.

(Refrain - **All**)

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You laid down your perfect life  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

(Verse 2 - **All**)

**You took our sin, you bore our shame,  
You rose to life, you defeated the grave,**

**And a love like this the world has never known.  
'Cause you took our sin, you bore our shame,  
You rose to life, you defeated the grave  
A love like this the world has never known.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You laid down your perfect life  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

**(Music Ministers)**  
Be lifted higher than  
All you've overcome.  
Your name be louder  
Than any other song  
There is no power  
That can come against your love.  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough

**(All)**

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You laid down your perfect life.  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.**

**On the altar of our praise,  
Let there be no higher name:  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You laid down your perfect life.  
You are the sacrifice,  
Jesus, Son of God.  
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

**Be lifted higher than  
All you've overcome.  
Your name be louder  
Than any other song  
There is no power**

**That can come against your love.  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough,  
The cross was enough.**

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*In Christ Alone*

(Verse 1)

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

(Verse 2)

In Christ alone who took on flesh:  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness:  
Scorned by the ones he came to save  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

(Verse 3)

There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am his and he is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

(Verse 4)

No guilt in life, no fear in death:

This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## **CONFESSION**

Heavenly Father, you continue to reveal your divine wisdom as we tread forward on the path you have laid. The life and death of your Son enlighten us to the holy paradox that through death comes life. We confess to you that we are too often focused on our own needs and desires. Draw out of ourselves, and help us to live for others as we pray:

**We call ourselves followers of Jesus, but we do not always want to follow him. We close our ears to your word when it calls us to suffering and sacrifice. We are eager to abandon our crosses. We prefer to indulge ourselves. We cling tightly to our lives and to our self-will. We grasp at worldly rewards. We are scared children. We seek comfort, and when your way does not provide it, we run.**

In silence, let us be mindful of the times we have run away from God.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

Holy and loving God, forgive us. Help us to see our Lenten journey as one we make every day. Invite us into the discipline of Lent. Make us realize it is not just a season, but a way of life. Help us as we struggle to take up our cross every day and follow you.

## **FORGIVENESS**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ. **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, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**



# WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

## 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.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 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. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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." God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I 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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalms 22:23-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**For the LORD does 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.**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

**The 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;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

**who rules over the nations.**

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.

**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **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.*

A reading from the book of Romans.

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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For 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, as 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. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." 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), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who 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**

**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.*

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

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." He 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. 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **YOUTH MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

### **\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
[he descended into hell.](#)  
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 COMMUNITY**

### **GATHERING OF GIFTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*\* 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.**

**SENDING SONG**

*Mighty To Save*

**(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)**  
Everyone needs compassion,  
Love that's never failing;  
Let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a Saviour,  
The hope of nations.

**(Refrain - All)**  
Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.

**(Verse 2 - All)**  
So take me as you find me,  
All my fears and failures.  
Fill my life again.  
I give my life to follow  
Everything I believe in.  
Now I surrender.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)**

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King:  
Jesus.**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**(All)**

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King:  
Jesus.**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King.**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

**Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921**

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

**George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633**

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

**John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

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