



For whoever would save
his life will lose it,
but whoever loses
his life for my sake
and the gospel's
will save it.
For what does it
profit a man
to gain the whole world
and forfeit his soul?

MARK 8:35-36

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

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Setting Three

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.

Jays & Concerns

Prelude

The Swan ~Camille Saint-Saëns

Dr. Brad Hunnicutt
Ray Green

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C. Amen

P. Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Holy God,

C. we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P. 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.

C. Amen

Gathering Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

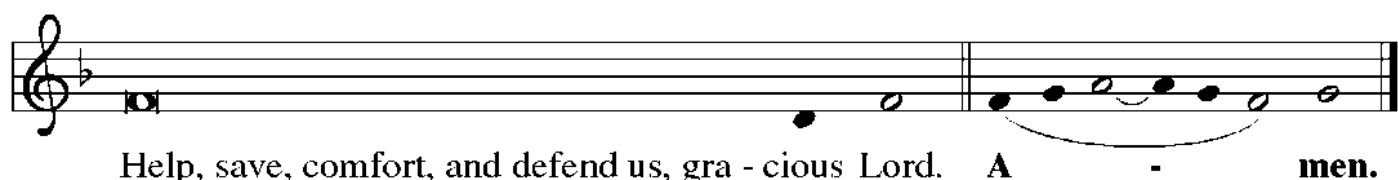
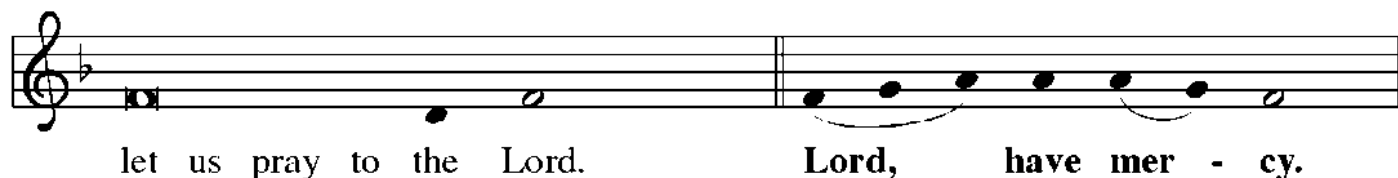
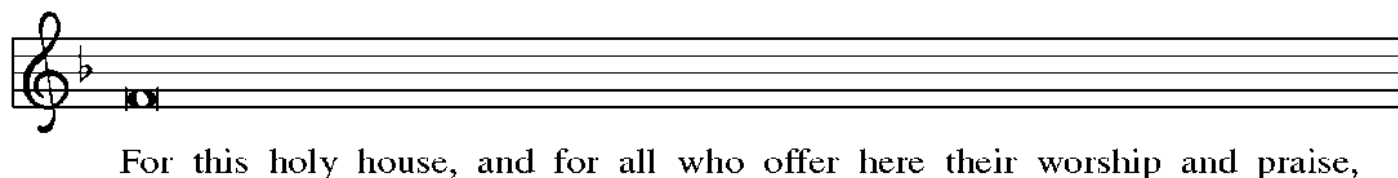
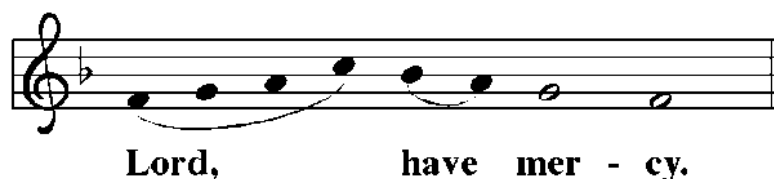
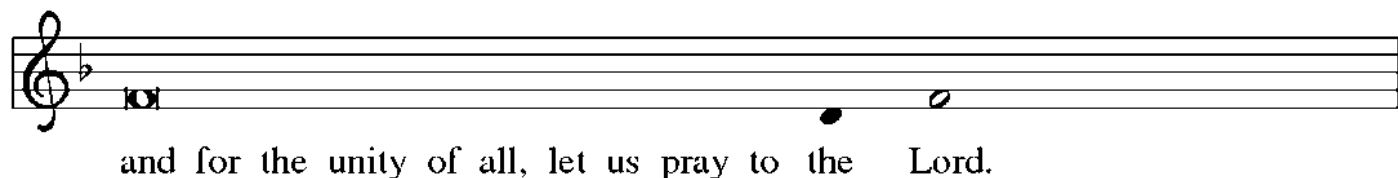
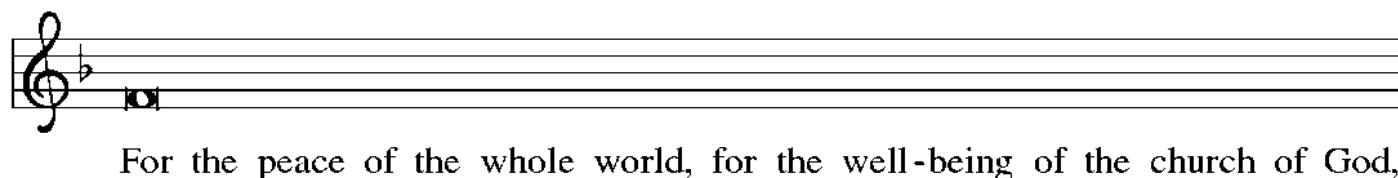
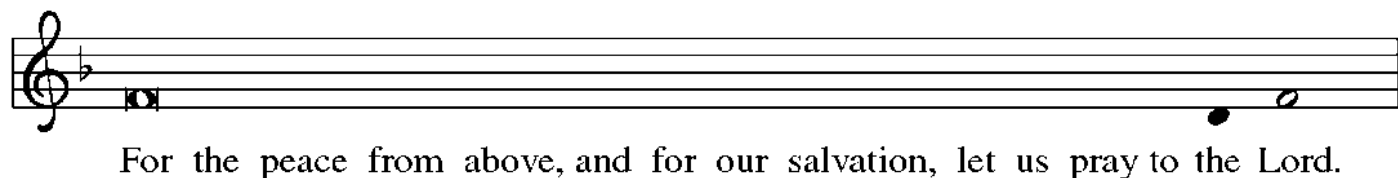
ELW 796

Greeting

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



This is the feast . . .

Women vs. 1, 3; Men vs. 2, 4

Refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

Women:



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

Men:

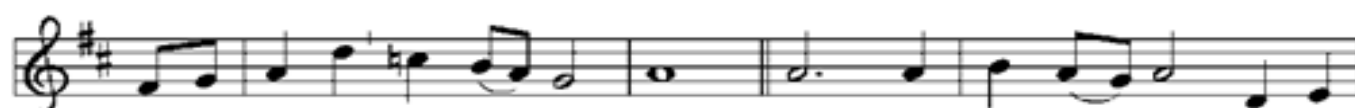


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

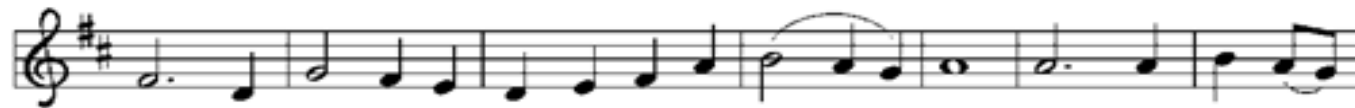


All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

Women:



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast . . .

Refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

Men



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. 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.”

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:23-31

Spoken
responsively

²³You 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.

**²⁴For 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.**

²⁵From 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!**

²⁷All 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.**

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 before the LORD.

**³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They 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.

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.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P. The holy gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

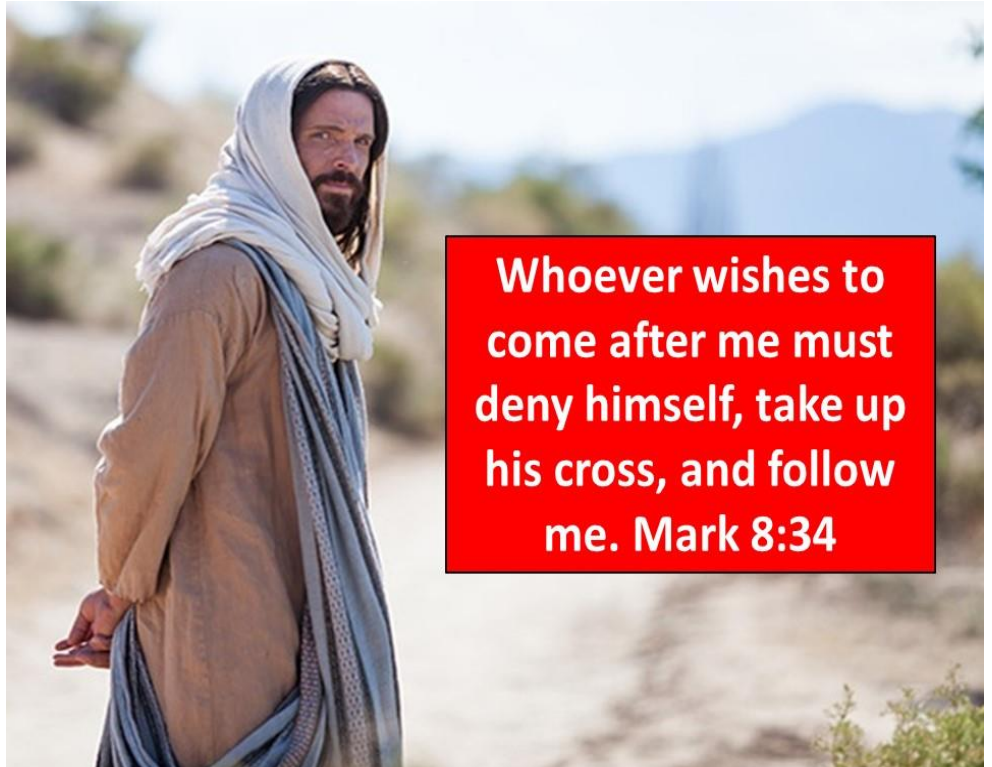
³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

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."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.



The Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

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

A brief silence.

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, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

- C. Your mercy is great.**

- A.** 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.

- C. Your mercy is great.**

Other prayers

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

- C. Amen.**

The Peace

P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.



Anthem

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Choir

Let the Vineyards...

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A. Jesus,

C. 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

P. It is indeed right....

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'The Sanctus'. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is more complex than in the first section, featuring many eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and occasional dotted notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

Eucharistic 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

Invitation to Communion

P. Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

C. Amen

Jesus, Lamb of God

☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

This Is My Father's World
Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 824
ELW 697

Post Communion Canticle

Lord, Listen to Your children Praying (sing 3 times)

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Post Communion Prayer

A. 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.

C. Amen

Blessing

P. Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

C. Amen

Sending Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Share your bread.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Servers for Sunday, February 25th:

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen
Reader Rena Bogle
Altar Guild Helen Holderman
Greeters / Counters Terry Barnes/Neil Brennecke
Acolyte Antonio Smith
Guest Musician Dr. Brad Hunnicutt, keyboards
Guest Musician Ray Green, viola



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday, or providing flowers or candles to beautify our church.



Midweek Lenten Worship at 7 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

February 28, March 6, 13, & 20

Lent

Second Sunday in Lent - February 25
Third Sunday in Lent - March 3
Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 10
Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 17

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - March 24
Maundy Thursday - March 28
Good Friday - March 29
Easter - March 31