

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



February 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

## 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.

## PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Fountain of living water,

**C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**C Amen.**



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind  
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,  
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.


Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918  
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.


## GREETING


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

C And also with you.

## KYRIE

  
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    C Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

  
A Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    C Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

  
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    C Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.



+ WORD +

**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.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>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."

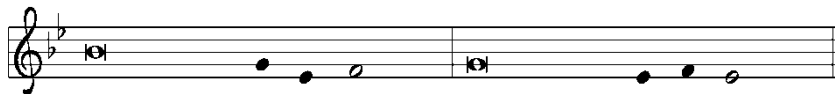
<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Reader            The word of the Lord.

**C**                **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>23</sup>You 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.

**C** <sup>24</sup>**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.**

**L** <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

**C** <sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

**L** <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

**C** <sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**  
**who rules o- | ver the nations.**

**L** <sup>29</sup>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 be- | fore the LORD.

**C** <sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

**L** <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C** **Amen.**

## **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.*

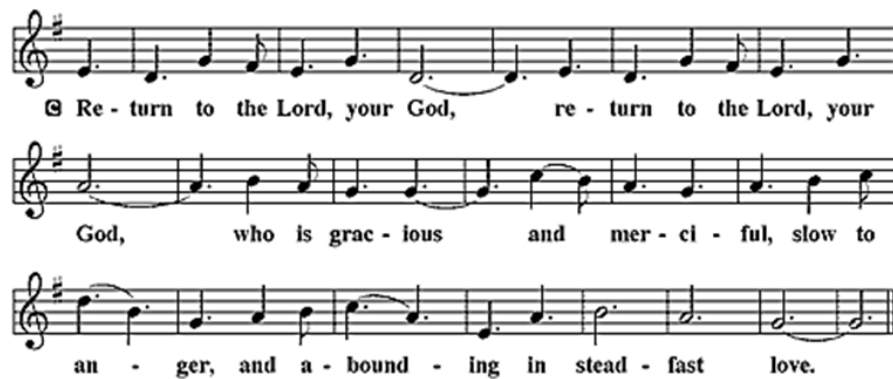
<sup>15</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his

descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.” <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader           The word of the Lord.

**C**               **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**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.*

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[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.<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup>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.”

<sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **325**      *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 me: in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me, walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual, arr. by Neal Varian

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** Let us confess our faith.

**C** 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**

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.*

*Congregational response: Your mercy is great.*



## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## **OFFERING HYMN**

*The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and gifts are brought forward.*

**C** 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

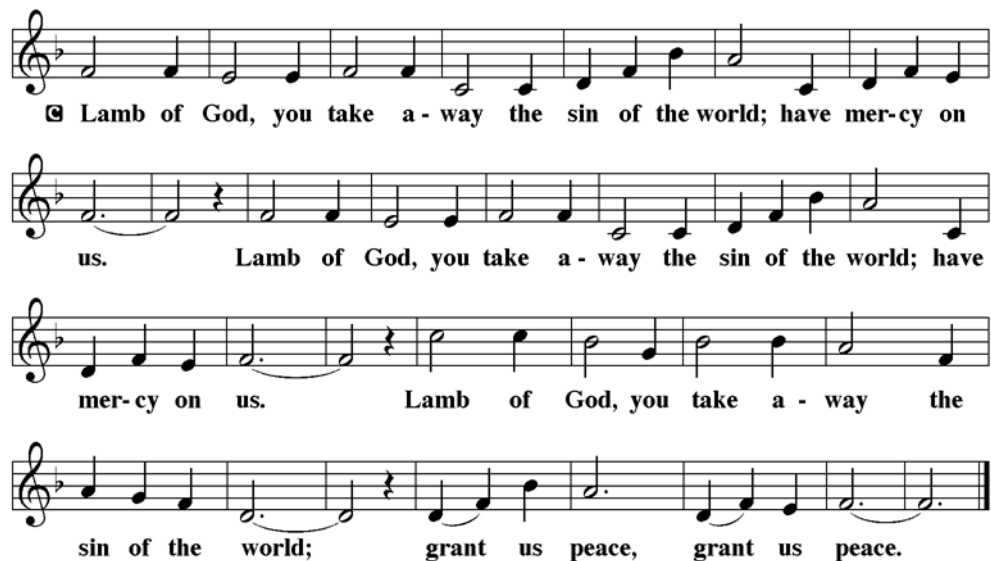
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

## 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, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.*

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*  
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

*Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,*  
 I'll tell ev - ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:  
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

*car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour;*  
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

*Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.*  
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## + SENDING +

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**P** You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SENDING HYMN**      796      *How Firm a Foundation*

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American



## DISMISSAL

P We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

**C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

Sundays and Seasons v.20200805.1416  
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### **Calendar for February 28 - March 7**

Feb, 28	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship (online), Second Sunday in Lent
March 3	Wed.		Bible study (online)
7	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship (online), Third Sunday in Lent

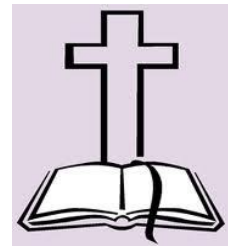
**Next Sunday's Readings, Third Sunday in Lent:**

[Exodus 20:1-17](#)

[Psalm 19](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

[John 2:13-22](#)



## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Family of Louise "Cootie" Rhodes, mourning her passing; Mark Canning for treatment of heart condition; prayers for healing for Mark Eagelfeld (friend of Judi Duffy), being treated for COVID.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor); being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Jamie Ann Meyers (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Tiffany Nuce and unborn baby (family of Barbara ODonnell); Chris Dickman (synod councilmember); child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personal, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc; all immigrant families split apart by US Government; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.