

Amen.

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

P: We pray together ...

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 LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Sign of the Covenant

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty;^[a] 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,^[b] but your name shall be Abraham,^[c] 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."

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:13-25

God's Promise Realized through Faith

¹³ For 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 For 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] 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^[b] 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^[c] 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

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he 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^[a] 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,^[b] 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^[c] 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 "THE PERFECT COUPLE?!"

Sermon Hymn "Blessed Assurance" (Hymn 638)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long.

2.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy God, you are awesome! From your words to Abraham in Genesis, you have proclaimed who you are, what you expected from humankind and declared your covenant. You stated, *"I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."* That was at the beginning of time; this is the end of time, and your words have been faithful and true. ***Lord in your mercy...***

That initial covenant involved the first miracle of a very unlikely pregnancy. Sarah was an old woman, and yet God promised, *"I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations."* And now we see those words come true. Not only did Abraham and Sarah create the Jewish people through Jacob, but through Ishmael, God created the many tribes that became the Arab people. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. By faith in Jesus Christ, we are all children of Abraham, not genetically, but through the blood of Jesus Christ. We were grafted into the Tree of Life on which the God of our salvation died. The birth of Sarah's son, foreshadows the improbable birth of the Virgin Mary's Son. That, too, was a miracle work of the Holy Spirit. Saint Paul, to the church at Rome, reiterates the promise granted to us by faith, he says, *"That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants."* Doesn't that include those nations of Arabs, the sons of other peoples created by Abraham and his offspring? They, too, are included in Abraham's promises...by faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and growth in God's grace. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

Jesus, too, walked the way of faith to the cross, as we hear in today's lesson. Romans continues, *"No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised."* God raised Him from the dead. He will do the same for us. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. ***Amen.*** CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "My Savior" Words by Dora Greenwell, alt.,
Music by Greg Sewell (c 2006 Lorenz Publishing Company, a
division of The Lorenz Corporation)
Choral Ensemble



Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2024

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-38

The most important stuff in this life ... can't be found in the stuff of this life. —James Laurence

In today's Bible reading, Jesus offers a life lesson which might help us decide whether following Jesus is something we want to do: "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?" (vv. 35-36).

When people were asked about what they thought were the most important life lessons to remember, the answers varied. They include:

Forgiveness is the key
Life is all about the journey
Everyone deserves a second chance
Believe in yourself; if you don't, no one will
Face your fears
Treat other people as you want to be treated
Take chances
There are no mistakes, only lessons
Our attitude toward life will determine life's attitude toward us
Sowing gratitude reaps gratitude
Patience is a virtue

These are not bad ideas at all. They are good ideas. But Jesus cuts closer to the heart. He encourages us *to lose our lives*. We probably wouldn't like it if someone said to us, "Get lost!" But this is what Jesus says to us, "Stop being egocentric. Life is not all about you! Lose your consciousness of self. Lose your absorption in self. Abandon yourself. And when you lose your life in this sense, you will then find it!"

Don't understand? Think of those who "get lost" in their pursuit of music — the concert piano, the tenor sax, the cello. Or that person who lives to paint or write. The wonderful thing about losing your life, is that you *love* your life in losing it, and this in turn brings you joy!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I will lose my life, and follow you. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

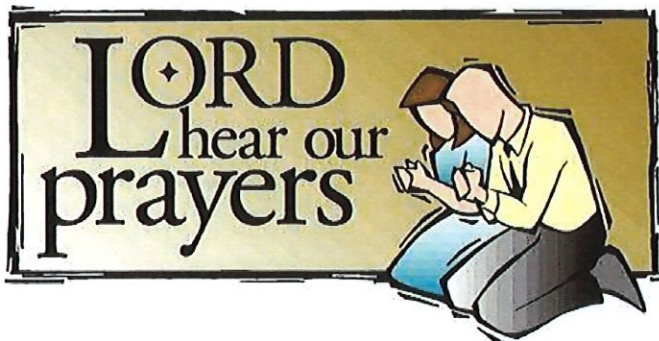


Members in Need of Prayer:

Jennifer Neer
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
father, Ken.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)
Owen (Fake)
Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)
Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
David Torres (Hays)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The Lord's 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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Majestic"
Song Leaders and Congregation

Words and Music by Lincoln Brewster CCLI Song # 4573308 ©2005 Integrity's
Praise Music CCLI # 2032355

O Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth
O Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth

The heavens declare Your greatness The oceans cry out to You
The mountains they bow down before You So I'll join with the earth
And I'll give my praise to You

O Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth
O Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth

The heavens declare Your greatness The oceans cry out to You
The mountains they bow down before You So I'll join with the earth
And I'll give my praise to You
I will worship You I will worship You I will worship You I will worship You

We will worship You We will worship You
The heavens declare Your greatness The oceans cry out to You
The mountains bow down before You So I'll join the earth and I'll sing
The heavens declare Your greatness The oceans cry out to You
The mountains bow down before You So I'll join the earth and I'll sing
And I'll give my praise to You

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Romans 1-4
Monday: Romans 5-8
Tuesday: Romans 9-11
Wednesday: Romans 12-16
Thursday: Proverbs 1-3
Friday: Proverbs 4-7
Saturday: Psalms 19-21

Verse to Remember

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 8:38-39 NIV

M	I	C	W	L	O	O	F	Y	C	C	M	N	C	T
D	S	K	A	C	X	J	X	H	M	K	I	P	P	N
E	N	I	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	A	Y	R	E	A
E	J	H	K	T	O	T	R	N	T	W	O	Y	K	S
D	E	L	I	G	H	T	E	N	O	T	U	R	A	A
E	U	G	N	O	T	G	U	A	E	S	T	C	S	E
H	T	A	P	N	Y	O	N	C	C	D	H	O	R	L
A	U	J	L	X	F	Z	T	E	C	H	Y	V	O	P
E	Q	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	T	I	E	F	W
T	H	G	I	S	N	I	F	L	R	T	L	N	J	I
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E	V	I	L	I	T	R	V	I	M	S	R	N	T	D
V	M	X	U	H	D	O	A	U	M	I	T	T	A	O
O	S	R	E	E	P	Y	H	E	K	U	B	E	R	M
L	F	R	K	S	L	E	E	P	H	C	N	P	N	R

BUSINESS CARD

Can you match the name and job title that might have appeared on the business card of these people in the Bible? For example, Peter/Fisherman.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah | A. Priest |
| 2. Luke | B. Carpenter |
| 3. Amos | C. Cupbearer |
| 4. Matthew | D. Cloth seller |
| 5. Lydia | E. Physician |
| 6. Joseph | F. Shepherd |
| 7. Paul | G. Tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. Tailor |
| 9. Tabitha | I. Silversmith |
| 10. Demetrius | J. Soldier |
| 11. Eli | K. Tentmaker |

WORD LIST

COVENANT
 DELIGHT
 DISCIPLINE
 EVIL
 FATHER
 FOOL
 FORSAKE
 FOUNTAIN
 FRUIT
 HEART
 HONEST
 HUMBLE
 INSIGHT
 LISTEN
 LORD
 LOVE
 NEIGHBOR
 PATH
 PLEASANT
 POVERTY
 PROTECT
 REBUKE
 SLEEP
 SON
 TEACHING
 TONGUE
 WALK
 WISDOM
 YOUTH

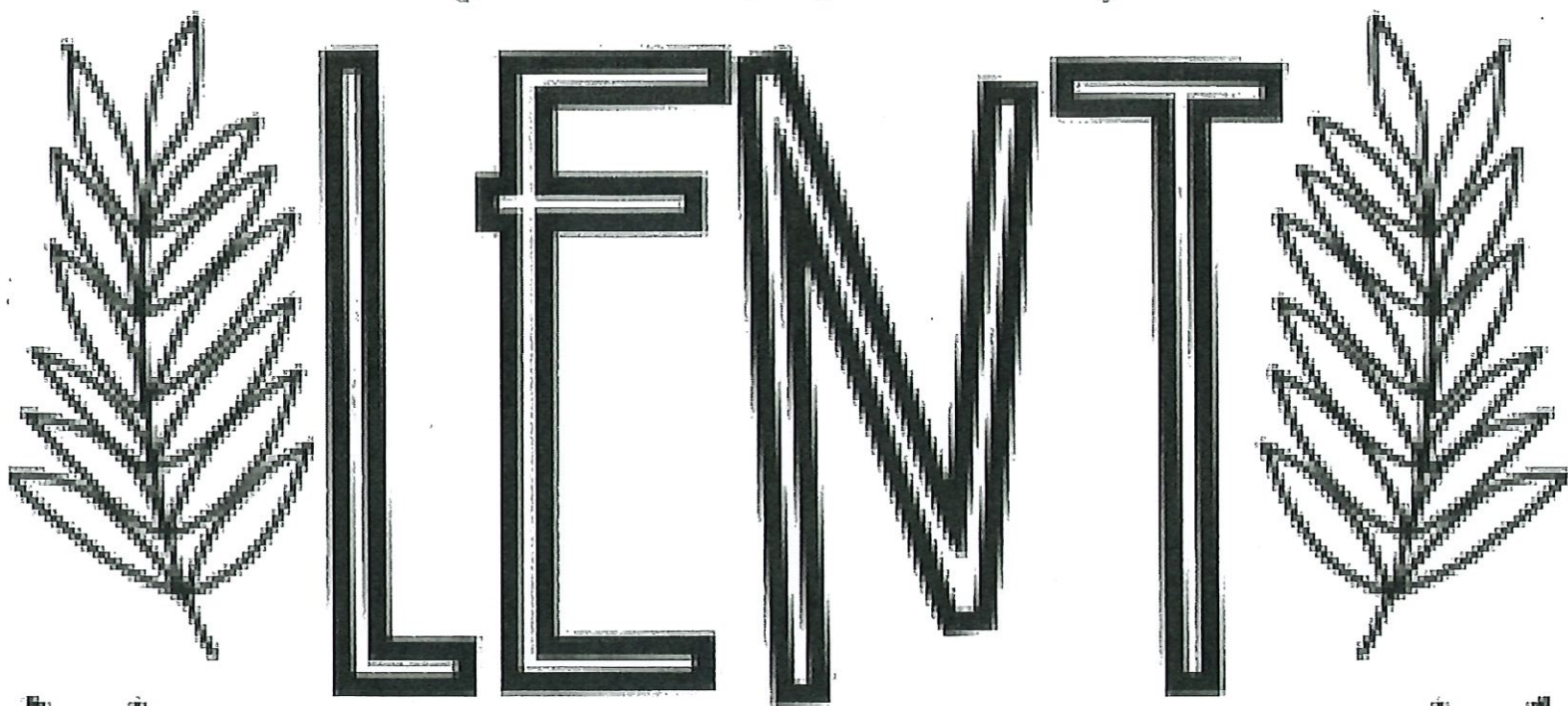
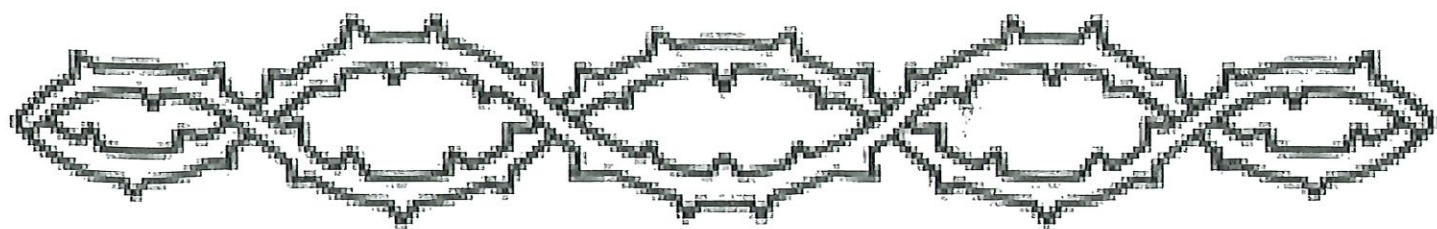
PROVERBIAL WORDS

Find and circle the words listed in the column to the left in the WORD SEARCH grid to the far left. These words are all taken from Proverbs 1-7 of the readings this week. Remember to look for words vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forward and backward.

SECOND SUNDAY



IN LENT



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Soup Suppers, Wednesdays @ 6:15



Please consider making soup for your church family on one of the remaining Wednesdays of Lent: **2/28, 3/6, or 3/13.**

You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup or use the kitchen on a Sunday morning to make it for the following Wednesday. Typically we need enough soup for

15-20 people, along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering.

The O'Sullivans have signed up for 3/20 and will bring their world famous potato leek soup with soda bread! Many thanks to Deb Wilk and Lisa Kossow for so deliciously covering our Wednesday meals for the first two weeks of Lent!!

There is a sign up sheet in the entry area. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.

Lenten Devotionals

Are on the ushers' table for you to take home. We only have a couple of large print copies so please take the small booklet, to save the large print for those that really need it. Thanks!



GSLC Lenten Wednesdays



For all the Wednesdays of Lent we will be offering food for the body and soul. 6:15 Soup Supper in Jacobson Hall

7-8 Adult Class with Pastor Ted & Kids'

Time with Julie.

Please plan to make Wednesday nights @ Good Shepherd part of your Lenten journey this year. Come and be fed!

OWLS March 18 @ 12PM

OWLS will soar to Sandy's on March 18, Monday. A NOON potluck of hoots and hollers will have every piece of tableware provided. Hopefully we can finally play Crazy 8's and UNO this time.



Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



It's Girl Scout Cookie Season!



Girl Scout Cookies are available until April 5! You may go to <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html> or email Sheri Eggebraaten at massagesbysheri@aol.com or if you prefer, you may call Sheri at 559-903-1851 to place your order. They even deliver your cookies! The cost is \$6.00 a box.

Here are the cookies for 2024: Adventurefuls, Caramel Chocolate Chip, Samoas, Do-si-dos, Girl Scout S'mores, Lemonade, LemonUps, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, Toast-Yay!, Trefoils.

FYI—Looking for a Car

We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions speak to Mary N.



Bring a Friend to Worship



There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.

Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.



Community Concert

The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform in Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. From the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia



Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Visit ConcordiaTickets.com for tickets. For more information see the poster on the breezeway bulletin board. For any questions contact Susan Berg by email at: bergkenneth@comcast.net.