

Lent 2, 2021, Order of Worship (February 28, 2021)

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship, Psalm 22:23-31) *You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him, but has listened to his cry for help. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise him—may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations [that is, the gentiles, non-Jews] will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations [gentiles]. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn—for he has done it.*

Confession and Forgiveness for Lent (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 100)

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

Beloved, God's word never fails; the promise rests on grace. By the saving love of Jesus Christ, and by the eternal mercy and power of God, your sins are forgiven. God remembers them no more! Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn *What a Friend We Have* (public domain) LBW 439, ELW 742, HP 182

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness—take it to the Lord in prayer.*

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The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. 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. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A reading from Genesis, the 17th chapter (17:1-7, 15-16) Just as God made a covenant with Noah in last week's reading, he also makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple (he's 99) they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. God gives them new names to emphasize the firmness of his promise (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 114).

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 ("exalted ancestor"), but your name shall be Abraham ("ancestor of a multitude"); 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 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.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

The gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter (8:31-38), sermon (page 5)

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Sermon Hymn *“Take Up Your Cross”* (public domain) LBW 398, ELW 667, HP 1836
Sing to LBW 492/ELW 818, *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

*“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “If you would my disciple be;
Forsake the past, and come this day, and humbly follow after me.”*

*Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear a golden crown.*

Apostle’s 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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2020, p. 114)

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all who are in any kind of need.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give to new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to micro-organisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation’s well-being. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates of peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine: peace on earth, goodwill to all of humankind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, so that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, **Our Father**

Benediction:

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.
Amen.

Sending Song

Softly and Tenderly (public domain)

ELW 608, HP 312

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.*

Refrain

*"Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling "O sinner, come home!"*

*Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!