

Second Sunday in Lent
Saturday, February 24, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 25, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

Entrance Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise

LSB 798:1,2,3,4,9

- 1 The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.
- 2 The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,
And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.
- 3 The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.
- 4 He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, To heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face; I shall His pow'r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace Forevermore.
- 9 The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Our Lenten journey continues toward the cross.

People: **It is a journey marked with suffering,**

Pastor: but suffering produces endurance.

People: **Endurance produces character.**

Pastor: Character produces hope,
People: **and hope in Christ does not put us to shame.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ's death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father grants us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we have not rejoiced in suffering but have given up easily. We have lacked integrity and acted shamefully. And we have even despaired of life itself. Have mercy upon us, and reconcile us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: At just the right time, while we were still weak and ungodly, Jesus Christ died for us and reconciled us to God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven and are at peace with God.**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, in Your perfect timing, You died for us who are weak and ungodly. Be present with us as we endure the sufferings of this world, so that we may learn how suffering leads to endurance, character, and a hope that never puts us to shame; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 8:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

LSB 685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
 Follow His example pure,
 Through a world that would deceive us
 And to sin our spirits lure.
 Onward in His footsteps treading,
 Pilgrims here, our home above,
 Full of faith and hope and love,
 Let us do the Father's bidding.
 Faithful Lord, with me abide;
 I shall follow where You guide.

- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
 And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
 Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
 We shall reap celestial joy;
 All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
 Jesus, here I share Your woe;
 Help me there Your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
 Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
 Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
 That would lead us into sin;
 And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
 Jesus, here with You I die,
 There to live with You on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus.
 He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
 Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
 Where You live, there we shall be
 In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
 Jesus, let me faithful be,
 Life eternal grant to me.

Sermon

Winners and Losers

Mark 8:31-38

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,
People: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, be mercifully present among all those who suffer,
leading them to the hope that is only in You. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer
attend,
People: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, soften our hearts to all those we would proclaim as our
enemies. Remind us that we are weak and ungodly. Bring to our
remembrance that You have died for all people. Lord Jesus Christ, my
prayer attend,
People: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, on the cross You took on our pain and punishment and
death. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief,
[*especially . . .*]. Comfort them with the profound reality that You not only
died but rose from death and will raise us from the dead on the Last Day to
eternal life. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,
People: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, bring Your strength and hope to all those who struggle
with mental illness. Help them find the support they need. Remove the
stigma around mental illness from our churches and communities. To all
those in deepest need, bring Your peace and joy. Lord Jesus Christ, my
prayer attend,
People: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, grant that the nations and peoples of the world might
live in peace. Put an end to all violence and war. Lead us to be the first to
beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Lord
Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,
People: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and lead them out of their suffering to hope. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,

People: and I will praise Thee without end.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 forever and ever. Amen

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

pg 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

pg 210

C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Handbells

Your Table I Approach

arr. Bill Ingrem

Distribution Hymn

When Peace Like A River

LSB 763

- 1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- ref** It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **Refrain**
- 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **Refrain**

4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
 The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
 Even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through
 this Meal. Continually bring to our minds the profound reality that Jesus
 died for us, the ungodly, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
 Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
 and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Lift High The Cross

LSB 837

Refrain:
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. [Refrain]

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. [Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]