

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 13, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. Amen.

Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbour. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 831 *The God of Abraham Praise* (verses 1, 3, 8)

1. The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love--
"I Am the One I Am"--by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
3. `The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end through Jesus' blood.
8. 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:
to you be glory, might divine, and endless praise!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Christian Friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the Church Council. The following persons, having been elected (by the congregation) to the positions of leadership, are asked to stand: Janet, Pat, Paul, Peter, Steve, and Tony.

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

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.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

(1 Cor. 12:4-7)

You have been elected to, positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

To the Church Council

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect the Word. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation. You are to work together with other members to see that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to the duties of the office to which you have been elected? If so, answer in unison: **Yes, by the help of God.**

The Congregation Stands

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so, answer in unison: **Yes, by the help of God.**

To the Council

I now declare you installed as *Church Council members* of this congregation. God bless you with the Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. Amen.

Let us pray. For all who offer themselves in your name, we give thanks, O God. Give them the joy of service, and constant care and guidance. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of ministry, that your name be glorified, your people live in peace, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 613 *Thy Holy Wings*

1. Thy holy wings, O Saviour, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.
2. Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.
3. Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperilled by the gospel. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Especially for the treatment of the people affected by attacks on Ukraine. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving especially, Lloyd, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, Carol and those we name in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You kindle faith that moves us into action. Guide this congregation and this new council into the future you desire for us. Align our thoughts and plans with your will. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labours on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

PSALM 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall, I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. My heart speaks your message - "Seek my face." Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away - you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.

Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors. Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

This I believe - that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord!

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

EvLW # 481 Come to the Table

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

EvLW # 576 *We All Are One in Mission*

1. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.
2. We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.
3. Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Mar 14	Exodus 33:1-6	Romans 4:1-12	Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Tue	Mar 15	Numbers 14:10b-24	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Wed	Mar 16	2 Chronicles 20:1-22	Luke 13:22-31	Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Thu	Mar 17	Daniel 3:19-30	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalm 63:1-8
Fri	Mar 18	Daniel 12:1-4	Revelation 3:1-6	Psalm 63:1-8
Sat	Mar 19	Isaiah 5:1-7	Luke 6:43-45	Psalm 63:1-8
Sun	Mar 20	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8 (1)	1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

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