



March 5, 2023

The Second Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Lift High the Cross”

~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. Lift high...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. ~Lift high...

♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high...

♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high...

♪ Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high...

♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 837-Text: George W. Kitchin 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt 1874-1956;  
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson 1875-1947; ©1974 Hope Publishing; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in You I trust.**

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

**Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.**

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

*Psalms 25:1, 2a, 4-6, 7b*

## Confession and Absolution

O God, our Father, we confess that by nature, we are sinful and that in our pride, we have turned away from Your commands.

**To You, omniscient Lord of all, in grief and shame I humbly call; I see my sins against You, Lord, the sins of thought and deed and word. They press me sore; I cry to You: O God, be merciful to me!**

Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have thought and said and done that is contrary to Your will and Your ways, and forgive us for all those times when we have trusted in our own righteousness instead of relying on Your grace in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer.

**O Lord, my God, to You I pray: O cast me not in wrath away! Let Your good Spirit never depart, but let Him draw to You, my heart that truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!**

Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have not been good stewards of Your great creation and for those times when we have been unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**O Jesus, let Your precious blood be to my soul a cleansing flood. Turn not, O Lord, Your guest away, but grant that justified I may, go to my house at peace with You: O God, be merciful to me!**

*A Time of Silence*

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Father in heaven, Your ways are justice and truth; strengthen our faith in Christ that we find in Him alone to be the way and the truth and the life. Keep the eyes of our faith focused on our Redeemer, and in the end, take us to be with Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“To God Be the Glory”

♪ To God be the glory, great things He has done,

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

~Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He has done!

♪ O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!

To ev'ry believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. ~Praise...

♪ Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer and higher and greater will be

Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. ~Praise....

*The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration, Hymn 66- Text: Fanny J. Crosby 1820-1915; Tune: William H. Doane 1832-1915; Public Domain; Christian Copyright License International #1217384*

## **Old Testament Reading**

Genesis 12:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when

he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

## The Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For 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 there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <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.

## Gradual Hymn

"God Loved the World"

- ♪ God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.
- ♪ Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- ♪ God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- ♪ Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- ♪ If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

*Please Stand*

- ♪ Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 571-Text: Heiliges Lippen und Hertzens-Opffer, Stettin c. 1778; tr. August Crull 1845-1923  
Tune: George J. Elvey 1816-93; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Holy Gospel

John 3:1–17

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## Nicene Creed

### Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

### The Hymn

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- ♪ Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- ♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- ♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.
- ♪ They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854*

*Tune: Ludwig M. Lindeman 1812-87, setting: Lutheran Book of Worship 1978; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Proclamation of the Word

“Recognizing THE Sign!”

John 3:1–17

## Offering and Musical Offering

## **Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand*

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

O Lord,

**Hear us for Your mercy's sake.**

## **Preface**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:1*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Psalm 136*

## **Proper Preface**

### **Sanctus Hymn** *Music: "Holy God, We Praise", Hymn 940*

♪ Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.

All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee.

Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

♪ Hark! The glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising:

Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,

Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **Words of Our Lord**

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Distribution Hymn** *Please Be Seated* "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

♪ Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,

These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed.

~Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

♪ With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.

No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee. ~Lord, may....

♪ Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.

No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. ~Lord, may....

♪ Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;

For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near. ~Lord, may....

♪ My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.

With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. ~Lord, may....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 619-Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, Leipzig, 1756; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; ©1941 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Dismissal

### Post-Communion Hymn *Music: "Holy God, We Praise", Hymn 940*

- ♪ Thou art King of Glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary.  
For us sinners sacrificed, As to death a Tributary,  
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.
- ♪ Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;  
Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee  
And, adoring bend the knee While we own the mystery.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 940-Text: Latin 4<sup>th</sup> cent.; German version, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna 1774;  
tr. Clarence Walworth 1820-1900; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Benediction

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.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

*"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

- ♪ In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.
- ♪ When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- ♪ When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.
- ♪ Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 427-Text: John Bowring 1792-1872; Tune: Ithamar Conkey 1815-67;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Postlude