



February 18, 2024

The First Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“A Mighty Fortress”

- ♪ A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe. With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
- ♪ No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
- ♪ Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage. His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.
- ♪ God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!

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Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4

Confession and Absolution

Though we are baptized and united with Jesus, we often act as if we were separated from Jesus. There are times when we fall prey to Satan and his temptations. There are times when sin reigns within us. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in repentance, asking for forgiveness.

A Time of Silence

Heavenly Father,

We have ignored Your help in resisting Satan and His temptations. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Yet our entire lives are lives of repentance. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and lead us in righteousness, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to endure temptation, suffering, and death for us and our salvation. 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.

Amen. We are forgiven. We are baptized into Christ.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Kyrie

O Lord,

Have mercy on us.

O Christ,

Have mercy on us.

O Lord,

Have mercy on us.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Genesis 22:1–18

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

The Epistle

James 1:12–18

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Gradual Hymn

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

- ♪ My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
- ♪ May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
- ♪ While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.
- ♪ When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 702 - Text: Ray Palmer 1808-87

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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Mark 1:9–15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“On Eagles’ Wings”

- ♪ You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”
~And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.
- ♪ The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. ~And He...
- ♪ You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come. ~And He...
- ♪ For to His angels He’s given a command To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. ~And He....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 727 - Text & Tune: Michael Joncas b. 1951; © OCP Publications; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Baptized Yet Tempted; Still Forgiven”

Mark 1:9–15

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

For a mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious.

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.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn

Music: “On my Heart Imprint Your Image,” Hymn 422

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy Jesus, Blessed Lord and King of all.
In Your pow’r and might come free us From the devil’s lies and thrall.
Let our proclamation be Sweet hosannas unto Thee.
As we journey through Lent’s wasteland, Hold us in Your scarred, yet graced hand.

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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei Hymn *Music: "On my Heart Imprint Your Image," Hymn 422*

♪ Lamb of God, for sinners given, In Your nail-pierced hands is balm.
Lamb of God, for sinners riven, In Your cross is peace and calm.
Let this proclamation rise: "I am baptized into Christ,"
Is my ward and my protection, And my death and resurrection.

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Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

♪ Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
♪ Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
♪ Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
♪ Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 436 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854; Tune: Richard Redhead 1820-1901;
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"Children of the Heavenly Father"

♪ Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 725 - Text: Carolina Sandell Berg 1832-1903, tr. Ernst W. Olson 1870-1958; © Augsburg Publishing House; LSBHymnLicense.net
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance on You and + give You peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

- ♪ Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing, You are My own.
- ♪ Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
- ♪ Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
- ♪ I, the Lord, will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I, the Lord, will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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Postlude