

Sunday, February 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent

LENTEN BEGINNING

“Open Our Hands, Lord”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Andante Religioso”
Sharon Gray, organ

R. G. Hailing

APOSTLES' CREED – Jeff Langdon

☞ 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!

WELCOMING SONG

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 583

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;

take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. Refrain

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain

GREETING

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

KYRIE

pg. 156

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ *O God,*

☞ **by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Are Ye Able”

Harry S. Mason

David Newman, tenor

FIRST READING – Karen Jensen, reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah’s womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God’s promise.

¹When 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. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I 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.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I 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.”

Reflection

How old was Abram when God appeared to him in this text? (verse 1) What did God say to him? What was the covenant that God made with Abram? (verse 2) What was Abram’s response? (verse 3) What was God’s promise to Abram? (verse 4) What was the sign of the covenant that God made with Abram? (verse 5) What was Abram’s new name? What was God’s promise to Abraham? (verse 6) Was the covenant only with Abraham? (verse 7) Who else did God make this promise to? (verse 15) What was Sarai’s new name? What was God’s promise to Sarah? (verse 16) What was the practical problem with this promise? (see verse 17) As for what you know about Abraham and Sarah, how did God overcome this problem? (See Genesis 18:1-15) What does this promise have to do with us? How are we descendants of Abraham and Sarah?

Psalms 22:23-31— read together with Phil Lewis

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Reflection

This is part of the psalm that we usually hear on Good Friday, the one that begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (see Psalm 22:1) What does the psalmist proclaim, after beginning the way it begins? (verse 22) Who is to praise God? (verse 23) Why, when we feel abandoned by God, can we praise God? (verses 24, 26) Who will see what God has done for those who pray this psalm? (verse 25) Is praising God limited to the people of Israel? (verses 27-28) Who else praises God? (verse 29) One might think that those who are dead would feel abandoned by God. Is that true? How are we included in this psalm? (verses 30-31) What are we to hear our ancestors proclaim? How do you know that God has acted for you, for us?

SECOND READING – Karri Chladek, reading

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as 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. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reflection

In this text, Paul discusses the question of the promise of God to Abraham—does God make this promise because of Abraham’s obedience to the law? Or because of God’s grace in making a relationship with Abraham? (verse 13) What would be true if it depended on Abraham’s (and our) obedience to the law? (verses 14-15) Who does this promise come to? (verses 16-17) Note that Paul quotes the text of our first reading for today. Who is this God that Abraham has faith in? What does it mean to you that God “gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist”? I think my faith in God would not exist were it not for God’s calling it into existence through baptism. What do you think? Why do you think Abraham was able to believe that what God said would happen, in spite of all the practical problems with that promise? (verses 18-19) This is the promise that Abraham and Sarah, as well as the the psalmist call on, even when their experience is that they have been abandoned by God. (verses 20-21) God attributed their faith in God as “righteousness,” that is, as their trust in God even without proof. (verse 22) Who else has faith attributed to them as righteousness? (verse 24) How can this be? (verses 24-25)

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

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**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised;
we will trust your word.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Reflection

This text comes immediately after Peter’s declaration that he believes Jesus is the Messiah. (see Mark 8:27-30) Jesus then teaches them about what it means for him (and them) that he is truly the Messiah. What does it mean? (verse 31) What is Peter’s reaction? (verse 32) What does Jesus do? (verse 33) You can remember in Luke’s story about Jesus’ temptation that Satan promised to return at a more

opportune time. (Luke 4:13) Who then did Jesus talk to? (verse 34) What did he tell them about what it means for them that he is the Messiah? (verses 34-38) What does it mean to you to deny yourself and take up your cross? Most of the time, we don't have to go looking for crosses to pick up. Perhaps what we need to do is to pray to Jesus that he will open our eyes that we can see the crosses that we have before us. What do you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW 338

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.**

PRAYER SONG

"Change My Heart Oh God"

**Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Janice & Howard Harmsen

We remember in our prayers

Bob Shimerhorn (friend of John Lawrence), Gerald Clark, Keith Hohly, Floreen Johnson, Dave Newman, Chris and Andy Wilson (friends of Sharon Gray), Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams, Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson, Dorothy Masteller, Dee Rasmussen and the family of Marlene Hebb

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

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give 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 microorganisms, 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 for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. 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. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Bob, Gerald, Keith, Floreen, Dave, Chris and Andy, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, the family of Marlene and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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, 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.
Amen!*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.*

C **Amen!**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Fountain of living water,*

C **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!

P *Beloved, God's word never fails.*

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

C **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

pg. 190

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are
most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not perish but have
eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world to
fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things
for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,*

*shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.*

☩ 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!**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☩ Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed. All are welcome.

COMMUNION

BLESSING

P *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

G **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *God of steadfast love,*

G **at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

BENEDICTION

P *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 \mp that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.*

G **Amen!**

SENDING SONG

“Awesome God”

**Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love
Our God is an awesome God**

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

P *Go in peace and serve our Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”
Sharon Gray, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Kathy Wessler, and Roger Lenander

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

"Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW 583 | Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.;
Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955
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"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW #338 | Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869
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"Open Our Eyes Lord" | CCLI Song # 1572 | Bob Cull
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"Awesome God" | CCLI Song # 41099 | Rich Mullins
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