

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
The Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021 A.D.**



Introduction

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

PR=Pastor Ryan
L=Lector
C=Congregation

PRELUDE *The God of Abraham Praise* setting by Sylvia Berg Oines

OPENING HYMN *The God of Abraham Praise* ELW #831 (vv 1, 3, 4 & 8)
YIGDAL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

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

PR: 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.

PR: 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PR: 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. **C: Amen.**

FIRST 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 22:23-31

R: *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.*

L: You 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.

C: **For 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. R**

L: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: **The poor shall eat | and be satisfied, let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever! R**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: **For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

L: Indeed, 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.

C: **Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come. R**

L: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN BEFORE THE GOSPEL

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less ELW #597

MELITA

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint 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.

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

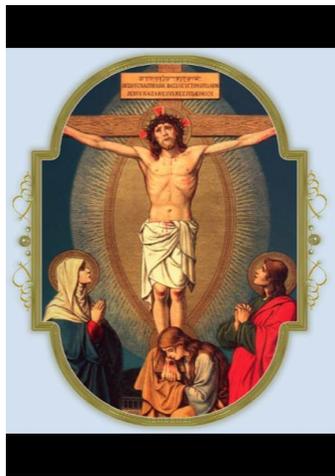
PR: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God. C: **Your mercy is great.**

PR: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

PR: O my Sweet Savior, Jesus Christ, you are my sovereign good, the fountain of all good. My God and my All. What a blessing it would be for me, could I at this moment possess you in my heart, and there render you my praise, and lay before you my necessities and share in the graces you bestow on those who really receive you.

O come to me dear Lord in Spirit and take full possession of my heart and of my soul. To you I give my memory that you may always dwell in my thoughts, my understanding, that it may ever be engaged in contemplating your love and goodness and my will, that you may direct it to the keeping of your holy law. To you I give my whole self. Oh my Jesus, make me to be ever yours. May the virtue of your divine sacrament increase my faith, fortify my hope, purify my charity and fill my heart with your love. Oh let me be yours and you mine from now and forever; grant that nothing in life or death may ever separate me from you anymore. C: **Amen.**

TAKING FAITH HOME

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

PR: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Take Up Your Cross* ELW #667 BOURBON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE *Fugue* Charles Burney

WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lector: Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.