

2nd Sunday of Lent

February 28th, 2021

Call to Worship

Pete Wills

Our journey towards wholeness and joy is only beginning. We've only just entered the wilderness. We are moving towards Jerusalem, towards the cross, where God's mercy is given to all people.

As we walk with God, we learn of the love that brings salvation to all of the world. We discover the grace and compassion that is held out for all creation. We worship Jesus our Lord, the pathway of salvation.

Hymn Glory to God Hymnal #49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days,
the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name,
forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free,
high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old
and you speak still.
Established is your law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart
by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek,
with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty
and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life
implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.
We praise you, living God!

We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought,
and still the same!

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c. 1770, alt.; stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.
MUSIC (LEONI 6.6.8.4.D): Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Gracious Lord Jesus, we struggle with this Lenten journey. We are slow to commit to a path leading to the cross. We want to save our lives, but are hoping for an easy way that doesn't require us to make changes. We promised to walk with you through all the trials and fears toward the cross; because we know that is the only way towards peace and life. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the cross. Amen.

Take a few moments for your own silent confession

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

The journey of discipleship is never easy, but you can be assured that you will not be on this journey alone. Believe the good news. Through the grace of God and love of Jesus Christ you have been forgiven.

Thanks be to God, we are free from our sin. Amen.

Glory to God Hymnal Kyrie

Lord, Have mercy. Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Scripture Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

^{17:1} When 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.

¹⁵ God 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.'

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he 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.'

³⁴ He 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.'

Message: "God Promises to Walk With Us"

Prayer

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

The 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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned 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. Amen.

Sending Hymn Glory to God Hymnal #320 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.

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Benediction