

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021

PRELUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

Walter Pelz

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

C Almighty God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have turned away from each other in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully. Amen.

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

P The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.

C If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

P Faith comes from what is heard,

C and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

P The Lord is near to those who call on Him.

C O come, let us worship Him.

OPENING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
ancient of everlasting days and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise, at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at His right hand.
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,
and Him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, whose all-sufficient grace shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways. He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God. And He shall save me to the end through Jesus' blood.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, because of Your tender love towards us sinners, You have given us Your Son, that believing in Him we might have everlasting life. Lead us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and finally come to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 4:13-25

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Jesus said: "If anyone would come after me, deny yourself;

C take up your cross and follow me."

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹Then [Jesus] 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P With faith in our Lord and confidence in His mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need:

P O Lord, You have given Your Church the joy of proclaiming the saving truth that Christ died to free us from sin. Help us to live out our faith each day in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Be near to all those who are facing struggles in their faith through doubt, temptation, or persecution. Strengthen and sustain them to set their minds on the divine things You have prepared. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bless those who serve in leadership positions and all who govern us in Your stead, that they act wisely on our behalf and in accordance with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Pour Your love into the hearts of all those who suffer in our midst. Grant them health and healing according to Your perfect will, and sustain them in all their trials. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now... (PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We remember with thanksgiving the multitude of nations that rejoice in heaven before You with their father Abraham. Keep us in that same covenant of faith, that we may live in Your presence now and always. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

C 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.

CLOSING 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!

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!

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

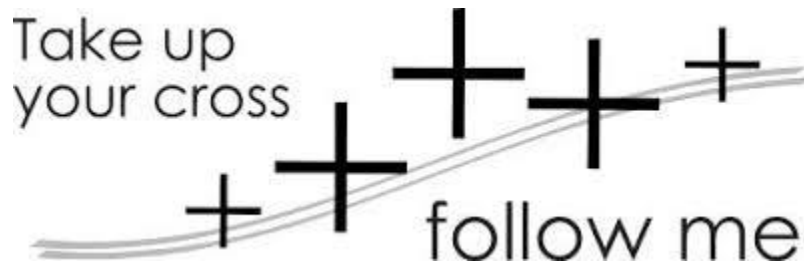
Olivet

Matthew Macheimer

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Chris Clark



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