

First Sunday in Lent - February 21, 2021



We often read Genesis 22 with stunned silence and bewilderment. Would God really demand Abraham offer his child as a burnt sacrifice? In faith, Abraham spoke the truest words he could, even though he had no idea that it would be the truth for that day, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." This epic story foreshadows what God would do on the cross of Calvary many years later.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MUSICAL PRELUDE - MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

HYMN "LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME" LBW #333 (Sung)

**Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way; Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day
Without your grace and favor I go astray; So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear; For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe, For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come, I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home,
And Nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend! So, take my hand and lead me Unto the end.**

CALL TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE (Stand, Spoken)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

P: Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life...

C: [which] the Lord has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, for many centuries the Church has observed a season of repentance and renewal to prepare out hearts for worship during the great days of Holy Week and the Festival of Easter. In this Lenten Season, we are called to examine our lives in the light of God's Word, to focus our hearts and minds on the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to renew our faith through the spiritual disciplines of Scripture reading, repentance, prayer and works of love. I bid you, therefore, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to enter upon a mindful and active Lenten journey for the renewal and strengthening of your most holy faith. **C: In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. (Psalm 25:1)**

AN ACT OF REPENTANCE

P: Hear me, O God, as I lift my soul to you. **C: Search me, O God, and bring your light to my dark places.**

P: Convict me, O God, of all this is not right in my heart. **C: Reveal yourself, O God, that my repentance may be true.**

(An extended moment of silence is kept for personal confession and pleas for renewal.)

P: Good and upright is the Lord. **C: He guides the humble in what is right.**

P: All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful. **C: The Lord forgives my sin though it is great. (Psalm 25:8-11)**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

KYRIE (Sung; Tune: Go to Dark Gethsemane)

**Gathered in your peace, we pray, for a suff'ring world this day;
In your mercy hear our prayer, save us from death and despair;
Lord of mercy and of might, by your pow'r make all things right.**

**Gathered in your peace, we pray, help us walk upon your way;
In your mercy hear our prayer, your great love to us now bear;
Lord of glory ever bright, guide us by your holy light.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

P: Let us pray. Lord God, you led your Son into the wilderness to engage our ancient foe in battle and by steadfastness in your Word he overcame every temptation of the Evil One.

C: Help us, in our times of temptation, to put our trust in you and guard our hearts with your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(Sit)*

FIRST READING — 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."

SECOND READING – 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL VERSE *(Stand, Sung)*

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES – MARK 1:9-15 *(Spoken)*

P: The Holy Gospel from St. Mark chapter 1. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE *(Sit)*

HYMN "JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY" LBW #93 *(Sung)*

**Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, See your thorn encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace and rest;
Only what your grace has taught us Calms the sinners deep distress.**

**Jesus may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold your cross anew;
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

APOSTLES' CREED *(Spoken)*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

OFFERING HYMN *(Sung)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken; Romans 12:1-12)*

P: We offer our lives to you, O God, as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing in your sight.

C: Transformed by the renewing of our minds, we will practice your good, pleasing and perfect will. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

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 him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and for our benefit and joy that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. So, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *(Sung)*

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT *(Sit)*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

C: Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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**

HYMN: "HE LEADETH ME: OH, BLESSED THOUGHT!" LBW #501 *(Sung)*

He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought! Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where're I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *(Refrain)*

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom.

By waters calm, o'er troubled sea, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *(Refrain)*

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine;

Content, whatever lot I see, Since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *(Refrain)*

And when my task on earth is done, When by thy grace the vict'ry's won,

E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jordan leadeth me. *(Refrain)*

Refrain: **He leadeth me, he leadeth me, By his own hand he leadeth me.**

His faithful foll'wer I would be, For by his hand he leadeth me.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!