

Second Sunday in Lent - February 28, 2021



Jesus instructed his disciples and the crowd that gathered around him that to live as the Son of Man lives, they must be willing to suffer. If anyone thought they wanted to follow after him, they must be ready to deny themselves and take up the cross. The paradox of following Christ is that life is found in giving it up rather than holding onto it with a white-knuckled grip. This is the truth for all generations!

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 "JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS" (*Sung*)

**Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.** *Refrain*

**Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star Shed His beams around me.** *Refrain*

**Near the cross! O lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day With its shadow o'er me.** *Refrain*

**Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river.** *Refrain*

Refrain: **In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find Rest beyond the river.**

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: Jesus said: "'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me; (*Mark 8:34-35*)
C: For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, in this Lenten Season we are called to deny ourselves that we may follow our Lord Jesus Christ. In order to learn such self-denial, we must first recognize the many ways our sin-nature prevents us from doing God's will and, in turn, our need for Jesus, who is the Christ, the Chosen One sent by God to redeem the world from all sin. I bid you, therefore, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to count your discipleship a greater good than your very life itself and to deny sin any power to take control of you. **C: God has not hidden his face from me, but hears me when I cry to him.** (*Psalm 22:24*)

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. Heavenly Father, it is your glory to have mercy. Bring back all who have strayed from your ways;

C: and lead them to hold fast in faith the truth of 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 17:1-8, 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, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I 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. ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

¹⁵And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name 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 become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

SECOND READING – ROMANS 5:1-11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 8:27-38 (*Spoken*)

P: The Holy Gospel from St. Mark chapter 8. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside

and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

MESSAGE *(Sit)*

HYMN "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS" LBW #398 *(Sung; LBW Tune #51)*

**"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "If you would my disciple be;
Forsake the past, and come this day, And humbly follow after me."**

**Take up your cross; let not its weight Pervade your soul with vain alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up, Sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.**

**Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, Nor let your foolish heart rebel;
For you the Lord endured the cross To save your soul from death and hell.**

**Take up your cross and follow Christ, Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross May hope to wear a golden crown.**

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: "ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN" LBW #261 *(Sung)*

On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, bestow;

The power is yours alone To make it sprout and grow.

O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, And yours alone shall be the praise!

To you our wants are known, From you are all our pow'rs;

Accept what is your own And pardon what is ours.

Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive And to your Word a blessing give.

Oh, grant that each of us, Now met before you here,

May meet together thus When you and yours appear,

And follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!