

## Worship Plan for Sunday, February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

ELW Holy Communion Setting One



### WELCOME

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. Beloved children of God let us pause for a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for God's Service as we listen to our prelude.

**PRELUDE** *Veni Creator* by Stallsmith

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *O Word of God Incarnate* (ELW 514)

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.
  
- 2 The church from you, dear Master,  
received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted  
o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass  
that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
still guides, O Christ, to you.
  
- 3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,  
a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations  
your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended,  
they see you face to face.

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**GREETING** (ELW p. 98)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**KYRIE** (ELW p. 98)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 102)**

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **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.*

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall

be her name. <sup>16</sup>I 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s <sup>1</sup>line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- <sup>1</sup>spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hid- <sup>1</sup>den from them;**

**but when they cry out, <sup>1</sup>the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup>great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup>fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup>and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup>live forever! R**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup>to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup>before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup>to the LORD,**

**who rules o- <sup>1</sup>ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>1</sup>down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>1</sup>fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>1</sup>serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>1</sup>tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people <sup>1</sup>yet unborn,

saying to them, “The <sup>1</sup>LORD has acted!” **R**

### **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.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For 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, <sup>17</sup>as 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. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He 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. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord <sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ,\* by which the world is crucified to me, and I <sup>1</sup> to the world. (*Gal. 6:14*)

### **GOSPEL: 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 Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But 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."

<sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>For 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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON (ELW p. 103)**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons* (ELW 798)

1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"

3 "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## **CREED (ELW p. 105)**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved *especially* Grace, Shirley, Jim, Melissa, Heather, Lars, Anna, Gene, Susan, Cheryl, Carolyn, and these others we name now in our hearts and with our voices. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others (*especially Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 106)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE**

In baptism you name us and claim us as your beloved children and send us out into the world with a rock-solid identity and knowledge of who and whose we are. In the midst of the noise and distractions of the world keep us strong in that knowledge that we may share your abundance and love with our neighbors wherever we come across them. If you have abundance to share, please raise your hand and our ushers will be y to collect it. You may also give at any time at [www.lander.lutherans.org](http://www.lander.lutherans.org). In the company of the Holy Spirit may we fearlessly share and proclaim the abundance of our God.

**OFFERING MUSIC** *Baptized and Set Free* arr. by Miller

**SETTING OF THE TABLE** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW 186)

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.

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## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE (ELW p. 108)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Receive who you are, become what you receive. Here is bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come! All are welcome at this table.

### **COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

### **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)**

**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, grant us peace.**

### **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *Pastorale* by Zipoli**

### **TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **SENDING OF COMMUNION (ELW p. 114)**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 114)**

#### **BLESSING**

Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG *Faith of Our Fathers* (ELW 812)**

1 Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.

#### Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to thee till death.

2 The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,  
were still in heart and conscience free;  
and blest would be their children's fate  
if they, like them, should die for thee. *Refrain*

3 Faith of our fathers! We will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife;  
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,  
by saving word and faithful life. *Refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

### Upcoming Commemorations

#### **Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921**

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

#### **George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633**

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

#### **John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

**GATHERING SONG** *O Word of God Incarnate* (ELW 514)

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**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons* (ELW 798)

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**SETTING OF THE TABLE** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW 186)

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**SENDING SONG** *Faith of Our Fathers* (ELW 812)

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