



WORSHIP LENT 2 FEBRUARY 28, 2021

FREEDOM THROUGH COVENANT: GOD'S CALL AND COMMITMENT

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five **covenants** God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. 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 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.*



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + ever creating,
ever transforming,
ever enlivening,
source of love and liberation,
our heart and our home.

Amen

We are unfinished. Our universe is unfinished. We confess the ways in which we attempt to limit God's creative power working in and through us.

Silence

Creating God, shape us into fruitful co-creators and faithful stewards of your design, liberated by your covenant to bless and be a blessing.

In Jesus we have met the one who, with his very life, showed us the power of love to transform the lives of all who are vulnerable. We confess the ways in which we steadfastly cling to our rights and entitlements, refusing to be changed, or even touched, by the world's pain.

Silence

Transforming Christ, move us from comfort to courage, from empathy to engagement, from prayer to policy change.

All things belong together; we are many, and we are one. We confess the ways in which we have allowed separation-from God-*within-me*, from God-*within-you*, from God-*within-creation*- to define us.

Silence

Enlivening Spirit, breathe into us the breath of your grace that we may release our hold on the fear and arrogance that keeps us from knowing wholeness.

Silence

Beloved, God's forgiveness is fulfilled in Christ. Because we are unfinished, we are ever being recreated. Because we have met Jesus, we are ever being transformed. Because we are both many and one, we are ever being enlivened with the Spirit's power-the grace of God, in whom we live and move and have our being. Forgiveness, grace, and love are yours to have ✠ and yours to share, now and always.
Amen.

HYMN LORD JESUS, YOU SHALL BE MY SONG

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go.
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.
To carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through Abraham and Sarah you showed us the firmness of your covenant so that all the ends of earth would remember and turn to you. May we, on our Lenten journey, turn to you now, trusting that you will accomplish what you promise to accomplish, and confessing that Jesus is the Messiah, lead us to take up our Lord's way of the cross, shattering the illusions that we can save ourselves, for the sake of him who died for us and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GENESIS 17:1-7



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. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 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. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION ON THE GENESIS READING

PSALM 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, give praise!

All you offspring of Jacob, give glorify. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel!

**For the Lord does not despise or abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the Lord's face hidden from them; but when they cry out the Lord hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead shall kneel before the Lord.

**Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom all shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"**

MUSIC MEDITATION: COME, O LORD, AND SET US FREE

Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Give your people peace

Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Give your people peace

Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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Give your people peace

Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

ROMANS 4:13-25

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

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, 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. 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." 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. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION ON THE ROMANS READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from ELW setting three)

Return to the Lord your God
Who is gracious and merciful
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love
And abounding in steadfast love.

Return to the Lord your God
Who is gracious and merciful
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love
And abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

MARK 8:31-38

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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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."

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. 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 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.

REFLECTION ON THE MARK READING

HYMN: I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found him in a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

CELTIC CREED

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.**

A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

**He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to give thanks for the generous gift of the earth. Teach us wonder and loving care as we join you in tending to creation's well-being.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. We pray for Palestine and Israel, Canada and the United States, The European Union and for peace in India and Myanmar.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We Pray for all our communities as we continue our pandemic journey. Help us in our hope as vaccines become more widely available. Give us compassion as we seek wisdom for our lives and the well-being of others. May your covenant of love and generosity inspire our actions and our mission.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. We pray for Sylvia, Betty, Wayne, Hans, Bryan, Baby Eliza and those we name silently in our hearts that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them.....

Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families: mental health care, our community garden, the ministry of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and our community foodbank ministry.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PREPARATION PRAYER

Faithful God, you walk beside us in the desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God our Creator, in you we, with all of creation, find our source.

Yet, from the very beginning we rebuffed your love in various ways,

We lorded over the weak and powerless and those that were different among us
and over the created order.

But you reached out in love and faithfulness to us, through the ages.

In Jesus Christ, your Son, we experience the embodiment of divine love,
justice and grace: As he became one among us,

Had the boldness to cross boundaries of creed, race, and political and religious power,

He was not cowed down by the powers that be in confronting social, racial, and misogynistic injustice,

He socialized with and befriended the poor, outcasts and the rejected of his times,

Leading to his ultimate sacrifice of himself on the cross.



In the night he was betrayed, Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his friends. During the meal, he took bread, gave thanks to God for their physical nourishment, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples at the table with him, saying, "This is my body that has been broken for you, receive this in faith and remember that I died for you."

After they had finished eating he distributed the wine, saying, "This wine represents the covenant of forgiveness and love God has made with you, receive this in faith and remember that I died for you."

Gracious God, as we break the bread and pour the wine, we remember the poor, the oppressed, the racialized, and the whole world reeling under the yoke of the pandemic.

We remember that Christ's body was broken so that the hungry might be nourished, the oppressed set free, the racialized experience equity, and the sick experience healing, rejuvenated with the bread and wine of new hope and new life.

Empower us, O God, to be like Jesus Christ.

Gathering God, we have shared the bread and wine as members of the one body of Jesus Christ; gather us as your people to share one another's burdens and pains and be that healing presence in the world, striving for justice, peace, equity and love for all people and the created order; let us be that family of hope connected by cords that cannot be broken.

Gather us, O God, as one in Jesus Christ.

Sanctifying God, may the Holy Spirit bless this meal as we partake of it, grant us that spirit of repentance and send us out into our broken world as your presence of healing and love.

Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words

"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Friends, we've been travelling the wilderness for over a year now,
and once again we're continuing in the wilderness we call Lent.

We'll follow paths that may seem threatening at times but promise nuggets of grace
when and where we least expect it.

As we journey, remember you are never alone in the twists and turns of the valleys.

Lift your heart to embrace the mysteries to be revealed.

May Creator be your strong protector,

Redeemer your cool, refreshing water,

and Spirit be your trustworthy guide.

Walk in peace as you discover the Way.

And may God's holy angels accompany you and meet your sojourning needs, † now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN: LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,

Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.

Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,

Full of faith and hope and love,

Let us do the Father's bidding.

Faithful Lord, with me abide;

I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.

Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.

Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;

All discomforts that annoy

Shall give way to mirth hereafter.

Jesus, here I share You woe;

Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus, Since by death He conquered death,

He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.

Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;

And the grave that shuts us in

Shall but prove the gate to heaven.

Jesus, here with You I die,

There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus, He has risen from the dead

That to life we may awaken, Jesus, You are now our head.

We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be

In Your presence constantly,

Living there with You forever.

Jesus, let me faithful be,

Life eternal grant to me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE