

## ***Second Sunday in Lent***

*February 28, 2021*



***St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church***  
***933 Brookline Blvd.***  
***Pittsburgh, PA 15226***

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Interim Pastor

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### **Please join us on Zoom at 9:30 AM Sundays**

Join by computer using Zoom: Meeting ID = 856 2680 1615 Password = church

or

Join by phone: Dial in # = (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID = 856 2680 1615

Password = 280633

***Remember you can also invite friends or family members to join us.***

**Introduction to the day**

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.

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**OUR PURPOSE**

*We are called and empowered by God to lead our family, friends, and community into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.*

**OUR MISSION**

*We will listen to, equip, and accompany each person on their journey to know God’s love and the plan of salvation.*

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**St. Mark’s Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday in Lent – February 28, 2021**

**Order of Worship**

**PRELUDE**

P. This is the day that the Lord has made.

C. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER REQUESTS**

**SHARING**

**God Sightings**

**CONFESSION**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

### The God of Abraham Praise



1. The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove.  
 4. The great I AM has sworn. I on His oath de - pend.  
 9. The God who reigns on high, the great arch - an - gels sing,  
 11. The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high.



An - cient of ev - er - las - ting days, and God of love.  
 I shall, on ea - gle's wings up - borne to heav'n as - cend.  
 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!" cry, "Al - migh - ty King!  
 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed.  
 I shall be - hold His face. I shall His pow'r a - dore,  
 Who was, and is, the same and ev - er - more shall be.  
 Hail, Ab - r'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays.



I bow and bless His sa - cred Name for - ev - er blest.  
 and sing the won - ders of His grace for - ev - er - more.  
 Je - ho - vah, Fa - ther, great I AM! We wor - ship Thee!"  
 All might and maj - es - ty are Thine and end - less praise!

**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.**

**LENT DIALOG**

Seek the Lord while he may be found.  
**Call upon God while he is near.**

Wicked, forsake your ways!  
**Unrighteous, forsake your thoughts!**

Come back to God.  
**Return to the Lord!**

Come back to God.  
**Return to the Lord!**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

## Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved



1. O God, Father in heav - en,
2. O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3. O God, Holy Spir - it,



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry  
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of  
O lav - ish Gi - ver, come to aid the fee - ble



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe. Up - on Your cross - for -  
death and grasp of grave. Your scars be - fore the  
child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.  
Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.  
help us pray. Bring joy and com - fort. Come to stay.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

### First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31 (Read in unison.)

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

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

**Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.**

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;**

**but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

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

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

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

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

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

**all the families of nations shall bow before God.**

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

**who rules over the nations.**

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

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

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

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>**They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"**

**Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25**

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (LBW p63)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

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."

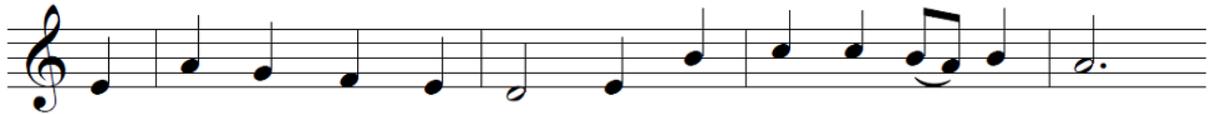
<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the 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

## HYMN of the DAY

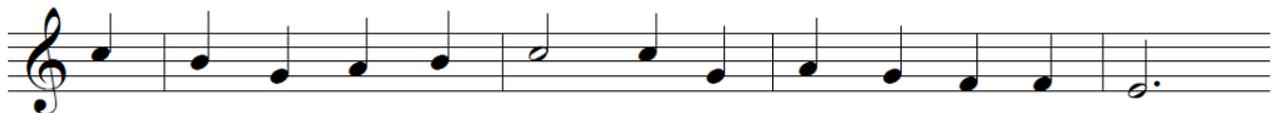
# Our Father, We Have Wandered



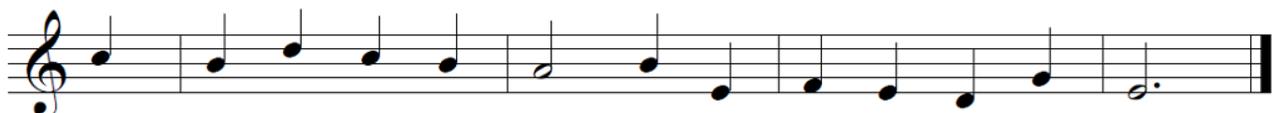
1. Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from Your face.  
 2. And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3. O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered Your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to You.  
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing and ev - er - car - ing Lord.



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste You come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring  
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ing, we hear You call our name.  
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf, and robe, and ring.  
 Stretch out Your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith.

**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 Pontious 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 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 wonder at your works and to 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. Protect the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Rhohingya and the Uyghurs China. 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, especially .... Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression especially native Americans, people of color, and those some see as different. 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, especially Meals on Wheels and Back Yard Angel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

## **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;  
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.**

## **CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**

Go out into the world in peace;  
have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint hearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of almighty God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth.  
 4. To Him shall pray'r un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - send.



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in His path to birth.  
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,  
 Be - fore Him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,  
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move.



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.  
 His Name shall stand for - ev - er, that Name to us is love.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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After the postlude feel free to **unmute** and be a part of the BYOCnD (Bring Your Own Coffee n Donuts) fellowship time. Re-connect with your church friends.

## **Announcements**

**Adult Sunday School** Join us at 2:00 PM Sunday, 2/28/2021

Teacher – Dave Wood

Dave will be presenting the Lenten series God's Love Is Shown a companion to the Wednesday night worship series.

Join using Zoom on your pc:

Meeting ID: 861 6423 0510

Password: church

Join by phone: Dial (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 861 6423 0510

Password: 561013

### **Lenten Series Wednesdays in Lent**

Join us for the Lenten series, God's Love Is Shown This worship series for Lent delves into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love for us shown most clearly in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each service focuses specifically on a meaningful descriptor of God's love and applies that description to the words and actions of our Lord who is God's love incarnate come down to save us.

Join us for worship on Zoom Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Meeting ID: 856 2680 1615, Password: church

Or

by phone: (301) 715-6592, Meeting ID: 856 2680 1615, Password: 280633

### **Monthly Devotionals are Available**

We have monthly devotionals available for your use. Both Christ in Our Home (January, February, March 2021) and Word for You Today (December, January, February 2021) are available. If you would like a copy sent to your home, please contact Sue Ingold either by email ([sue@teamingold.com](mailto:sue@teamingold.com)) or by phone (412-600-4947) and she will mail it to you. They will be available every quarter – just let Sue know that you'd like one.

### **Happy Birthday to**

Bea Allemang	3/3
Jeffrey Arnold	3/4
Melody Cook	3/6
Isaiah Devine	3/9
Pat Levandowski	3/11
Bea Krieger	3/12
Tierney Parker	3/12
Zachary Zottoli	3/15



*Please let the secretary know if anyone's  
birthday is missed or incorrect.*

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**GOSPEL MESSAGE**  
**February 28, 2021**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**A Love That Lets Go**

Sometimes we are just not to be trusted with the task of loving. When we really, really love someone or something, our fingers can grasp too tightly, and our fists clench a little too firmly. For fear of losing what we love, we can squeeze the life out of what we were trying to protect.

Today, Jesus announces the trajectory of his mission: he is going to be put to death after great suffering and rejection, and he is going to be raised from the dead on the third day. This announcement sends Peter's hands reaching out to hold onto Jesus with fierce firmness. Peter doesn't want to lose the one he loves, and he goes so far as to shame and criticize Jesus for his words.

Have you ever acted like Peter, letting fear of losing someone you love thwart your ability to actually love them?

When Jesus says that those who try to save their lives are going to lose their lives, he is talking about our instinct to hold on too tightly to the things that we love. Somewhere in this move, our love actually becomes control. In the moment when the instinct to control takes hold, love and life are lost.

Jesus' words invite us to back up. We acknowledge our tight grip on God, on each other, on our own hearts. We let a little air in to those places where our tight grip has been suffocating life. We gather to worship a God who loves this world so deeply that God would rather die at our hands than coerce us into reciprocating that love. Today, we come to know God's love, which never seeks to control or pin us down, but which breathes life into the world.

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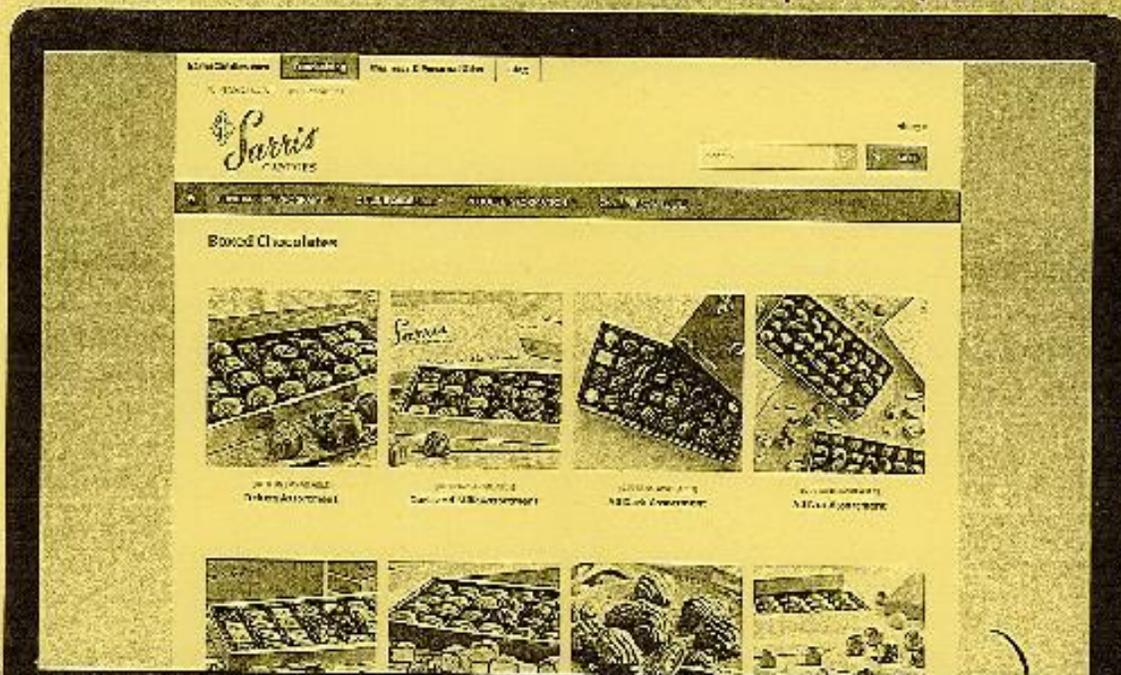
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