

# *2nd Sunday in Lent*

## *February 28, 2021*



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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.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. We have closed the Sanctuary to the general public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com)

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Worship Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Worship Leader: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Worship Leader: Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Worship Leader: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Congregation: Amen.**

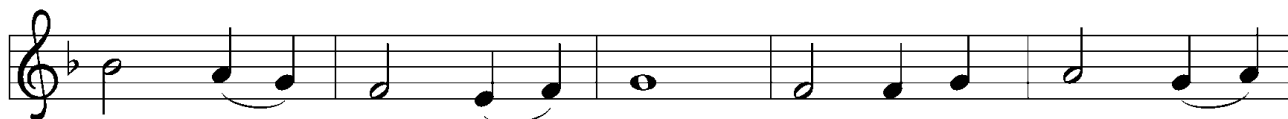
## GATHERING HYMN

### *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

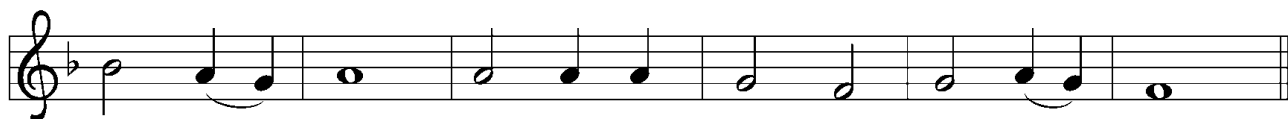
verses 1 & 2



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Worship Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

**Congregation: 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.**

## FIRST READING

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

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: <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."

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

*The psalm for the day is read responsively with Lenten refrain sung first and then at each R:*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart O God and re-new a right spi-rit with-in \_\_\_ me.

Reader: <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! R**

<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!" **R**

## **SECOND READING                      Romans 4:13-25**

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: <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.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN VERSE

Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you prom-ised. We will trust your word.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

Introduction to the Gospel: *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.*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Mark in the 8th chapter.

Congregation:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Worship Leader: <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."

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

Congregation:



Pra-ise to— you—, O— Christ.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons

### 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.

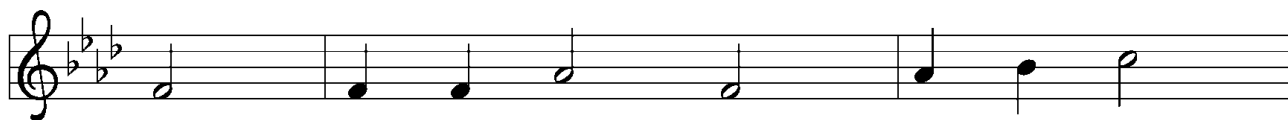
Jesus' words invite us to back up. We acknowledge our tight grip on God, on each other, on our own hearts. We let a little air in to those places where our tight grip has been suffocating life. We gather to worship a God who loves this world so deeply that God would rather die at our hands than coerce 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.

## SERMON

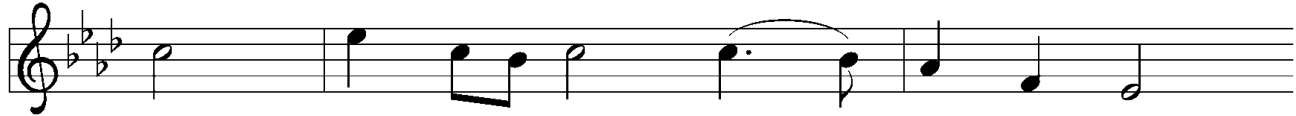
### HYMN OF THE DAY *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said vs. 1 & 2*



1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,



"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
nor think till death to lay it down;



for - sake the past, and come this day,  
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
for you the Lord en - dured the cross  
for those who hum - bly bear the cross



and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.”  
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
to save your soul from death and hell.  
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.

Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression (*especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley,



Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia & family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, Rose Marie Piff, Gary Mostrum, Vicki Kennedy, Gail Elder, Valerie Smutko, Jason Meadows, Lisa & Ty Hauschild, Bishop Pedro Suarez, Pastor Courtney Erzkus and family, Ralph Burson, Ellen Duncan, Luanne Sekel, Lorraine Chavez, Pat Fredell, Skylar Favos, and all those suffering from natural disasters [including all those affected by COVID-19 and severe winter weather], from violence, & terror, and the family & friends of the 490,000+ people in the US & the 2,400,000+ people worldwide who have died from COVID-19). Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Prayer Leader: 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, especially those resting within our Memorial Garden, that together we may find our lives in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Congregation: Amen.**



**OFFERING**



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the "Donate" button), or by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. You can also fill out your attendance form on our website.*

**OFFERTORY**  
*Clean Heart*

*Create in Me a*



**OFFERING**

**PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.



**Congregation: Amen.**

**WORD**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE**



Worship Leader:



The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:**

**And al- so with you.**

W. Leader:



Lift— up— your hearts.

Cong.:



We lift them to the Lord.

W. Leader:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Cong.:

It is right to give our\_\_ thanks and praise.

Worship Leader: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.



1	In	the	cross	of	Christ	I	glo - ry,	tow'r - ing
2	When	the	woes	of	life	o'er - take me,	hopes	de -
3	When	the	sun	of	bliss	is	beam - ing	light and
4	Bane	and	bles -	ing,	pain	and	plea - sure,	by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears annoy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

**Congregation: 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.**

## BLESSING

Worship Leader: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory vs. 1 & 2*

## DISMISSAL

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

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