

LENTEN MIDWEEK 2

LENTEN THEME: Honest Repentance – “Faith”
March 08, 2023

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

PSALM Psalm 34:1-8

L: I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

L: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

C: **I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.**

L: Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

C: **This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.**

L: The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

C: **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!**

CONFESSION (based on John 20: 24-29; Luke 24:36-43)

L: Let us boldly go before our Father in heaven and seek His forgiveness.
L: Wondrous God,

C: we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom.

Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who gave Himself willingly as the supreme sacrifice for our sin. Through faith and trust in Him, give us new life. Forgive our sin, we pray, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

L: Hear O Church, this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF TRUST (LSB 729) “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying All my need.**

**I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.**

PRAYER (Responsive)

L: Lord God, give us the faith we need to know Your will,

C: **the hope we need to accept Your will,**

L: and the love we need to do Your will,

C: **even when we don't understand it, knowing that Your way is better.**

L: We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 22:1-18 (The Sacrifice of Isaac)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only

son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Romans 4:1-8 (Abraham justified by Faith)

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

**"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;
blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."**

L: this is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 26:26–29 (Institution of the Lord’s Supper)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN No. 738 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and
Give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at
The plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and
Give us we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and
Give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and
Give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

SERMON “Faith” Genesis 22:1-18 Seminarian Matt Martin

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; Lord in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

L: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacraments, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever. Lord in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

L: Heavenly Father, ruler of all things and generous with mercy to all who call upon You, Your Son granted healing and relief to many who came to Him in their need. Mercifully come to the aid of Your servants for whom we pray now, [*especially . . .*], that in accord with Your will, they may be restored to health and given patience for the day of their trouble and hope at the last, until with a thankful heart they rejoice in Your presence with saints and angels in perfect healing; Lord in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

L: I thank You, my heavenly Father,

C: **through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN No. 878 "Abide with Me" (vss. 1, 4 & 6)

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**