



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Fremont, Ohio 43420
Pastor Tim Miller

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Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

Introduction

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.

Special Music: *There's Something About That Name* **W. Gaither**

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Opening Hymn: *Father Welcomes* **TBOB 52**

Father Welcomes

Chorus

Father welcomes all His children
To His fam'ly through His Son
Father giving His salvation
Life forever has been won

Verse 1

Little children come to Me
For My kingdom is of these
Life and love I have to give
Mercy for your sin
Chorus

Verse 2

In the water in the Word
In His promise be assured
Those who are baptized and believe
Shall be born again
Chorus

Verse 3

Let us daily die to sin
Let us daily rise with Him
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord
Live in the peace of God
Chorus

GATHERING

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

***Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

C: Amen.

P: 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.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

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.

R: A reading from Genesis, the 17th chapter.

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

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I 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.

C: Thanks be to God.

²³You 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.

²⁴**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.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

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

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.

R: A reading from Romans, the fourth chapter.

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***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.

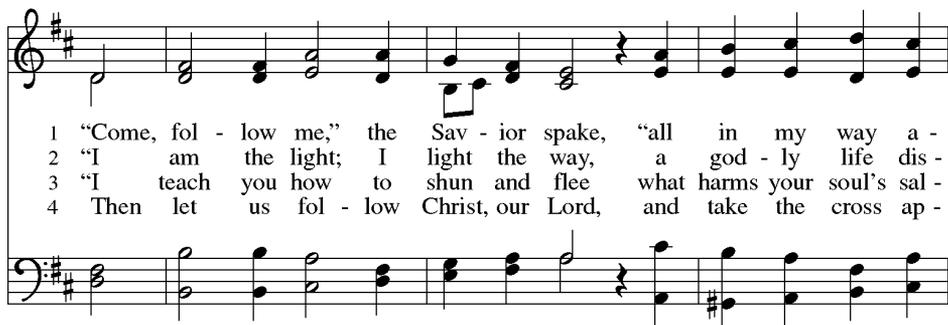
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

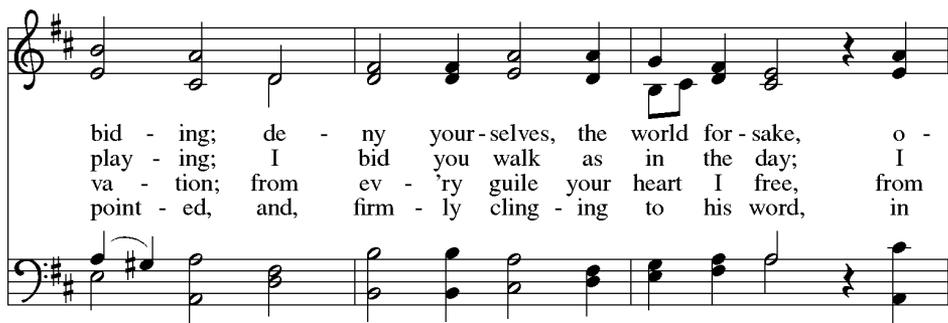
P: ³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking 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.”

³⁴He 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. ³⁵For 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. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake



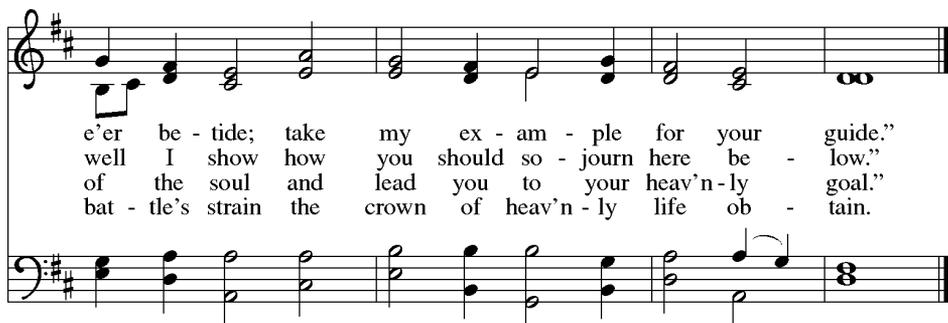
1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your - selves, the world for - sake, o -
play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

***Apostles' Creed**

**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**

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

A brief silence.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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 those we name at this time*. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

*Offering Prayer

P: Faithful God,
you walk beside us in 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 Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension, and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

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

**C: 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**

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution of Communion

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

***Blessing**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Shout to the North
(Please see next page)

TBOB 197

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Shout to the North

Martin Smith

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Song #55205, *Father Welcomes*, Song #1562261, *Shout to the North*. Permission was gained through CCLI License #1176607 for printing and streaming. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Shout to the North

Verse 1

Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete

Chorus

Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth

Verse 2

Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our awesome King of love
(Chorus)

Verse 3

Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly
(Chorus)

Ending

Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

SHOW ME, JESUS, how to take up my cross — to give of myself wholeheartedly for others — and follow you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PROPERTY COMMITTEE. We are looking for people who want to share their time and talents maintaining the church and parsonage properties. We can use plumbers, electricians, painters, carpenters, landscape artists, project leaders, helpers and others on our team. We especially need a person who is available during the day who can perform minor repairs, get quotes, and work with visiting contractor(s). If this sounds like something for you, or you would just like to help, please call or text **Trustee Ken Walker at 567-201-6537**. We will be having our second meeting of the year on **Tuesday, March 9th at 7pm**. All are welcome to attend. Give it some thought, and a prayer.

REMINDER... *When Sandusky County is under a Level 2 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day.*

ASSISTING TODAY:

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller
Pianist: Becky Fox
Special Music: Ruth Ann Seibert
Assisting Today: Joy Decker
Lector: Ken Walker
Acolyte: Reese Smith
Altar Guild: Judi Neill, Heidi Tooman,
& Ann Waggoner
Counters: Barb Kocsis* and Ken Walker

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller
Organist: Parm Boyer
Lector: Kim Smith
Acolyte: Lauren Gazdecki
Altar: Den & Deb Fahle
& Bonnie Overmyer
Counters: Niki Wasserman*
& Scott Miarer



PRAYING DAILY

For healing and hope: Mark Clark, Bill & Pat Copley, Bob Fought, Erik Garlock, Della Humbarger, Mary Ann Keck, Denny Krumnow, Judy Longoria, Dean May, Jadlynne Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Gary Overmyer, Stella

Roberts, Sandy Schneider, Dorothy Swedersky, Janet Tressler, Carnetta Weber, Norma Willey. David Bolen, Janet & J.D. Owen, Terri Sattler, Diane Swartz.

For the Family & Friends of: Roxanne Root

For our Military: Troy Halfhill, Daniel Linder, Joshua Mooney, Katie Olmstead, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Rev. Amon Kinyunyu, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Feb. 28 to March 7

Sunday

Feb. 28-----9 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion

Monday

Mar. 1-----7 p.m. FLCW Board Meeting

Tuesday

Mar. 2-----6 p.m. Card Ministry

Wed.

Mar. 3-----6:00 p.m. Bell Choir

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Thurs.

Mar. 4-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day

3 p.m. ChristCare

Friday Mar. 5-----

Saturday Mar. 6-----

Sunday

Mar. 7-----9 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion

5 p.m. Catechism Class

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021: ATTENDANCE 88; OFFERING \$4,408.50

NOISY OFFERING, FEBRUARY 21, 2021: \$76.49

LENTEN WORSHIP, FEBRUARY 24, 2021: ATTENDANCE 29: OFFERING \$148.00

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.