

# *Second Sunday in Lent*

**March 16, 2025**

**10:15 am**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

## **Introduction**

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✙ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn: ELW #834 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

- 1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
- 2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

**4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render; oh, help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

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### **Prayer of the Day**

**God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## *Readings and Psalm*

### **First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

### **Psalm: Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze  
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will  
sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my  
salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1**

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (*John 3:14-15*)

The Gospel according to the book of Luke, starting with the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Luke 13:31-35**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #727**

***"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"***

- 1. Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, upon a cross they bound you, and mocked your saving kingship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And still our wrongs may fashion now new thorns to pierce that steady brow, and robe of sorrow round you.**
- 2. O awesome Love, which finds no room in life where sin denies you, and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom the pow'r that crucifies you, till not a stone is left on stone, and then the nations' pride, o'er thrown, will never more defy you!**
- 3. New advent of the love of Christ, will we again refuse you, till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose you? From ancient doubts our minds release to seek the kingdom of your peace, by which alone we choose you.**
- 4. O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us your new creation; our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled; we wait your revelation. O Love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before your cross; come, finish your salvation.**

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## **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.

## Peace

## Offering

### Offering Hymn: ELW #186 "*Create in Me a Clean Heart*"

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit  
from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me  
with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a  
right spirit within me.

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## Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need (*especially* Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie, Gregg Nelson the Schwantes family, and the Strand family). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

### **Preface**

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

#### **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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

### **Distribution Hymn: ELW #679 "For the Fruit of All Creation"**

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths

that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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## Post Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

**Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn: ELW #705 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r; crown your ancient church's story; bring is bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, as sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom Grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
3. Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

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### Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

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✝ **Thank You Pastor Matt Larson,** for leading worship today.

✝ As part of the WELCOME Team, Calvary invites you to "A Fiesta of Joy" on April 3, 2025, 5pm - 8pm at Christ the King church in Mankato. This event features authentic south of the border food from celebrity chef Jordan Mendez of Mankato's Mazatlan restaurant, a silent auction, where you have the opportunity to bid on

baskets/items donated by our church & others, all the while relaxing to sounds of Latino music. Please consider attending & supporting this event. This event helps WELCOME support families seeking asylum here in the United States. Our celebrity chef needs a head count for this event; please RSVP to Christ the King, Calvary or Erica Kittelson by March 18th. See the invitation hanging up at the church, on our Facebook page or website.

- + **Lawn Mowing bids:** If interested please contact Bob or Eric with your bid.
- + **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie, Gregg Nelson the Schwantes family, and the Strand family.

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