

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

February 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

setting by Christopher Uehlein
Karen Sande, organ

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

KYRIE

Assisting Minister

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assisting Minister

Petition..... let us pray.

For peace between nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the healing of creation, let us pray: **Kyrie** . . .
 For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and all who long for God, let us pray: **Kyrie** . . .
 For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, abandoned or afraid, let us pray: **Kyrie** . . .

Assisting Minister

Help, save, com-fort and de - fend us, O

All

God. A -

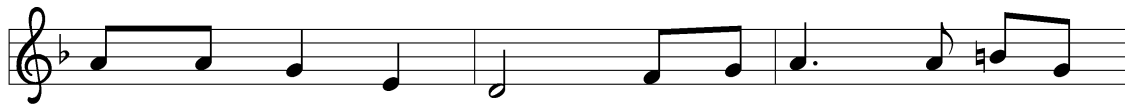
<i>To the Prayer of the Day</i>	<i>To the Evening Hymn of Praise</i>
 men.	 men.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #334 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

4 Light of life beyond conceiving,
 Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
 Give new strength to our believing,
 Give us faith to live your word.

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Sarah and Abraham, long ago you embraced your people in covenant and promised them your blessing. Strengthen us in faith, so that we, along with your disciples of every age, may proclaim your faithfulness in this world today and to generations to come. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

FIRST READING *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

read by Ted Urban

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.”

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING *Romans 4:13-25*

read by Jeanne Urban

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.

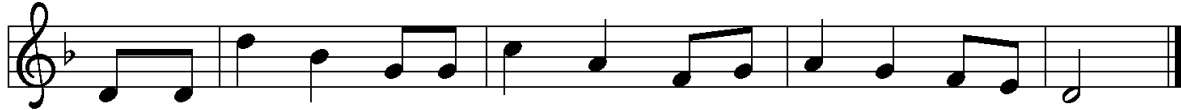
Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL *Mark 8:31-38*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus 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 world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those 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

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

HYMN OF THE DAY #808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Boundless God, remind us:

WE ARE Created by an ever-present, loving God,
Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus
Equipped to be resilient amidst change,
Grounded in community,
Free to struggle, grow and expand,
Compelled to reach out in response,
Renewed in hope each day.

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us,
that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *The Gift of Love*

traditional English tune *O Waly, Waly*, arr. L. Warren
prerecorded by Janell Lemire, harp; Karen Sande, piano

OFFERING PRAYER

God's time is fulfilled and the reign of God has come near.
We are humbled by your generosity, we seek to respond by walking in your ways.
Receive these offerings that they may be used
to glorify you and serve those in need. Through Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

We return to the wilderness of Lent still thirsting to be together, still hungry for communion. Longing to return to this table, we remember that when the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they cried out to God and God sent manna. We know that in times of crisis, God feeds hungry people. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. This is bread for the journey. Before you eat it, think of the ways that God has fed you and the community over this last week. Think of how God has shown up in your life and in the lives of others. Take a moment to thank God for nourishing you. As you eat the bread, pray for those who don't have enough to eat, that God would feed them too and that we might be part of the way God answers those prayers.

MUSIC FROM TAIZE *Nothing Can Trouble*

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we journey with Jesus to the cross, we pray:

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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

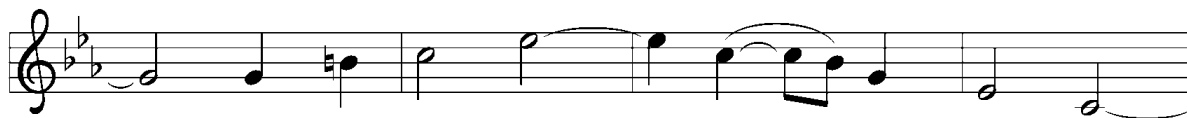
SENDING HYMN #325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; created for beloved community of God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *O God, Thou Faithful God*

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
 Karen Sande, Director of Music
 Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
 Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS Mary Dontje, LoAnn Stone, David Haavik, John Sippola and Michael Fuchs,
 singers; Janell Lemire, harp
VIDEO TEAM Shania Krause, David Sproat, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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Please join us for upcoming Wednesday services, livestreamed at 6:00 p.m., followed by zoom conversation “Acting Against Racism” at 6:30 p.m.:

- Wed, Feb. 24 ~ In Community with Creation (Reflection from the Rova family)
- Wed, March 3 ~ In Community with all the Saints (Colleen Birt)
- Wed, March 10 ~ In Community with our Neighbor (Denise Scheer)
- Wed, March 17 ~ In Community with those on the Margins (Cindy Monroe)
- Wed, March 24 ~ In Community with Christ (Brian Peterson & Paul Anderson)

FLC Community Conversations on Racism and Justice - Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Immediately following each service at 6:30 pm will be an FLC community discussion via zoom, using the articles & conversation guide *Acting Against Racism* published by Christian Century. Please join in this important conversation as we learn and grow together!

The Zoom discussion group begins following the services at 6:30 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88382398856?pwd=SkE4RkFJa1FPQ1lrVUtIRXJPdlkxZz09>

Link to the *Acting Against Racism* document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrYOqNXABKJFrvnNJ-rZljjr5mKEwwBl/view?usp=sharing>

Article Reading & Discussion schedule

Feb 17 - "Becoming less defensive about White privilege"

Feb. 24 - "James Baldwin reminds us not to be surprised by this"

March 3 - "I believe racism is wrong. So what?"

March 10 - "How do we know Black lives matter to God?"

March 17 - "Why are so many White Americans standing up for racial justice?"

March 24 - "Wearing down structural evil with the ministry of erosion"

*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.*

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

(218) 728-3668 | flcduluth.org | flcduluth@flcduluth.org

