



*They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn*

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**DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**February 28, 2021**  
**The Second Sunday in Lent**

# Sunday, February 28, 2021

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## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

*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.*

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## PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß (Humankind, bemoan thy great sin), BWV 622  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*Last week for our prologue, we heard Ich ruf zu dir, one of J. S. Bach's more significant chorale preludes from his Orgelbüchlein collection. This week, we hear perhaps the most famous chorale from the collection, O Mensch, beweine. O Mensch is a classic Lutheran penitential chorale, with both the melody and the text dating back to the earliest days of Lutheranism, but it does not appear in our hymnal. Bach's setting is by far the longest of his settings from the Orgelbüchlein, featuring 12 phrases, each based on one line of the chorale, and a very slow tempo marking. Bach adapts a Buxtehudian texture, featuring a highly ornamented solo line, and a three-part accompaniment, but his setting shows far greater beauty and sophistication than Buxtehude's chorales. Our organist traditionally presents this work on Ash Wednesday, but in this unusual year, our only Ash Wednesday service was outdoors and the music was led by a piano, so he is offering it as a prologue meditation on this Second Sunday in Lent.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

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.*

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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray.

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

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*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.*

A reading from Genesis.

<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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 22:23-31

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*The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.*



Psalm 22:27

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 1996 Augsburg Fortress  
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<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 off- | spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither is the Lord's face hid- | den 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! REFRAIN**

<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 o- | ver 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 be- | fore the Lord.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!" **REFRAIN**

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

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*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.*

A reading from Romans.

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly sings the acclamation.*



*Cantor:* May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ,\*  
by which the world is crucified to me, and I | to the world. (*Gal. 6:14*)

**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.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

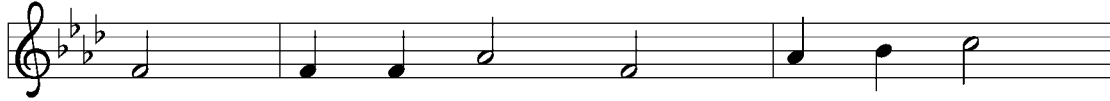
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

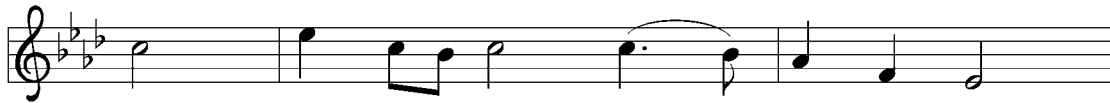
*Pastor Steve Springer*



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

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In our prayers, we commend to God Stuart Neilson, who passed away this week. Stuart was the son of member Hildy Neilson.

With the cross of Christ before us, and relying on God's promises, we pray for the church, the world, and the needs of all people.

Dear God, your gift of grace is for all people. Give your church and all the baptized confident faith to follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises. Give the church a bold voice, that all the ends of the earth may hear and turn to you in whom is dominion and deliverance.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we are anxious to forsake the past year with all its trials. We have felt the weight of diminished hope and daily fears. Still, your cross stands before us as a symbol of the peace and joy that knows no bounds for us. Lead us and the world into health and wholeness, and keep us strong as we claim your sustaining grace.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You called all things into existence. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and join you in tending to creations well-being.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

So much of the world does not know or rejects the power of the cross. Make it a beacon of hope for the nations, and a guiding force for those who govern. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead. Break the bonds of oppression, especially in nations where Christians are persecuted and suffer for their faith: North Korea and the other 49 countries at the top of the World Watch List.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, many are those who need your strong arm to uphold them in their struggles. You joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany the aged, the infirm, the depressed and the lonely. Restore all who are sick or grieving the loss of friends or family to Covid-19. Let your grace surround them with comfort and peace. Bring healing to all who call to you for help in critical times.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Many are the saints who have gone before us to be taken up into that great cloud of witnesses. We give thanks for their lives dedicated to you. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together with Stuart we may find our lives in you.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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As we await the day of Christ's coming in glory, let us pray as he taught us.

**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.**

**MEDITATION**

Dove of Peace Alleluia Bell Choir

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*What Wondrous Love is This*  
Setting by Anna Laura Page (b.1943)

*In today's Gospel, Jesus informs his disciples about his impending suffering and death. The words of the hymn on which our bell anthem is based describe the wondrous love of Jesus to set aside his crown and bear the dreadful curse for our souls and for the sake of the world.*

**COMMISSION**

Pastor Stephen Springer

**BLESSING**

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The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**



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 bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, 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.

## EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Prelude on HEINLEIN  
 Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

Leo Sowerby was an American organist, church musician, and composer. He won a Pulitzer Prize in the 1940s and was often called the "Dean of American church music" during his lifetime. This work is a setting of a tune called Heinlein that was written in the 1600s to match Christoph Schwamlein's setting of Psalm 130, titled "Aus der Teife." This tune is well known in many denominations as the music for "Forty days and forty nights," a hymn that appears in a number of Catholic and Protestant hymnals, but not our own Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Sowerby uses the tune as a canon that is repeated throughout this setting, which is alternately meditative and dramatic.

**DISMISSAL**

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Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

John Hoelter, Lector

Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister

Eric Holtan, Cantor and Director of Choirs

Kevin Seal, Organ