



March 16, 2025

The Second Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“How Firm a Foundation”

- ♪ How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- ♪ “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- ♪ “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!
- ♪ “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- ♪ “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 728-Text: A Selection of Hymns, London 1787; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself;

The Lord hears when I call to Him.

Psalms 4:1, 3

Confession and Absolution

As we eagerly await our final transformation as citizens of heaven on the day of resurrection, let us above all pursue steadfastness of faith, relying on the power and promises of God our heavenly Father.

O almighty God, our Father in heaven, we come to You in our weakness seeking and imploring the strength of Your grace and blessing. Our sins wear us down. Make us desire all that You promise and to firmly believe in Your forgiveness and help now and for all our days. We ask this solely for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Good Shepherd.

A Time of Silence

Even amid the challenges and hardships of life in faith in this world, as citizens of the kingdom of God we have the assurance of grace abounding throughout our days. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Psalm 69:9

O God, why do You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.

Direct Your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

Psalm 74:1-3

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Psalm 69:9

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Jeremiah 26:8-15

¹In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the Lord: ²“Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord all the words that I command you to speak to

them; do not hold back a word. ³It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. ⁴You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, ⁵and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. ⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

The Epistle

Philippians 3:17–4:1

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Gradual Hymn

“Jerusalem the Golden”

- ♪ Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest— The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!
- ♪ Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song, As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng. The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.
- ♪ Around the throne of David, The saints, from care released, Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast. They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

Please Stand

♪ O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect! O sweet and blessed country
That faithful hearts expect! In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 672-Text: Bernard of Cluny 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66; Public Domain.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:31–35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

~On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

♪ When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. ~On Christ,...

♪ His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. ~On Christ,...

♪ When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! ~On Christ,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 575- Text: Edward Mote 1797-1874;Public Domain.

Proclamation of the Word

“Innocent Blood”

Jeremiah 26:8–15

Response Hymn

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

♪ Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.

♪ But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.

♪ My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.

♪ My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.

♪ Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 431 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: William Daman c.1540-91
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Nicene Creed

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary," Hymn 423

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Heav'n and earth Your glory show.

With the life and breath You've given We Your name praise here below

Sing hosanna, blest is He who Comes to us, our Savior dear.

Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna far and near.

Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary," Hymn 423

♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Savior, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,

Jesus, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Savior from the world above,

Jesus, Lamb of God our Savior, take our sins from us away.

Comfort us by Your sweet presence. Grant us peace to us today.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

♪ When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

♪ Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;

All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

♪ See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

♪ Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748;

Tune: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

And His mercy endureth forever.

Psalm 106:1

We give thanks to You, almighty God, for sending Your Son, our Lord, to be both a sacrifice for our sin and a model of the godly life. By His body and blood, strengthen our faith to stand steadfast as inheritors of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“I’m But a Stranger Here”

- ♪ I’m but a stranger here, Heav’n is my home; Earth is a desert drear,
Heav’n is my home. Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev’ry hand;
Heav’n is my fatherland, Heav’n is my home.
- ♪ What though the tempest rage, Heav’n is my home; Short is my pilgrimage,
Heav’n is my home; And time’s wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, Heav’n is my home.
- ♪ Therefore I murmur not, Heav’n is my home; Whate’er my earthly lot,
Heav’n is my home; And I shall surely stand There at my Lord’s right hand;
Heav’n is my fatherland, Heav’n is my home.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 748-Text: Thomas R. Taylor 1807-35; Public Domain.

Postlude