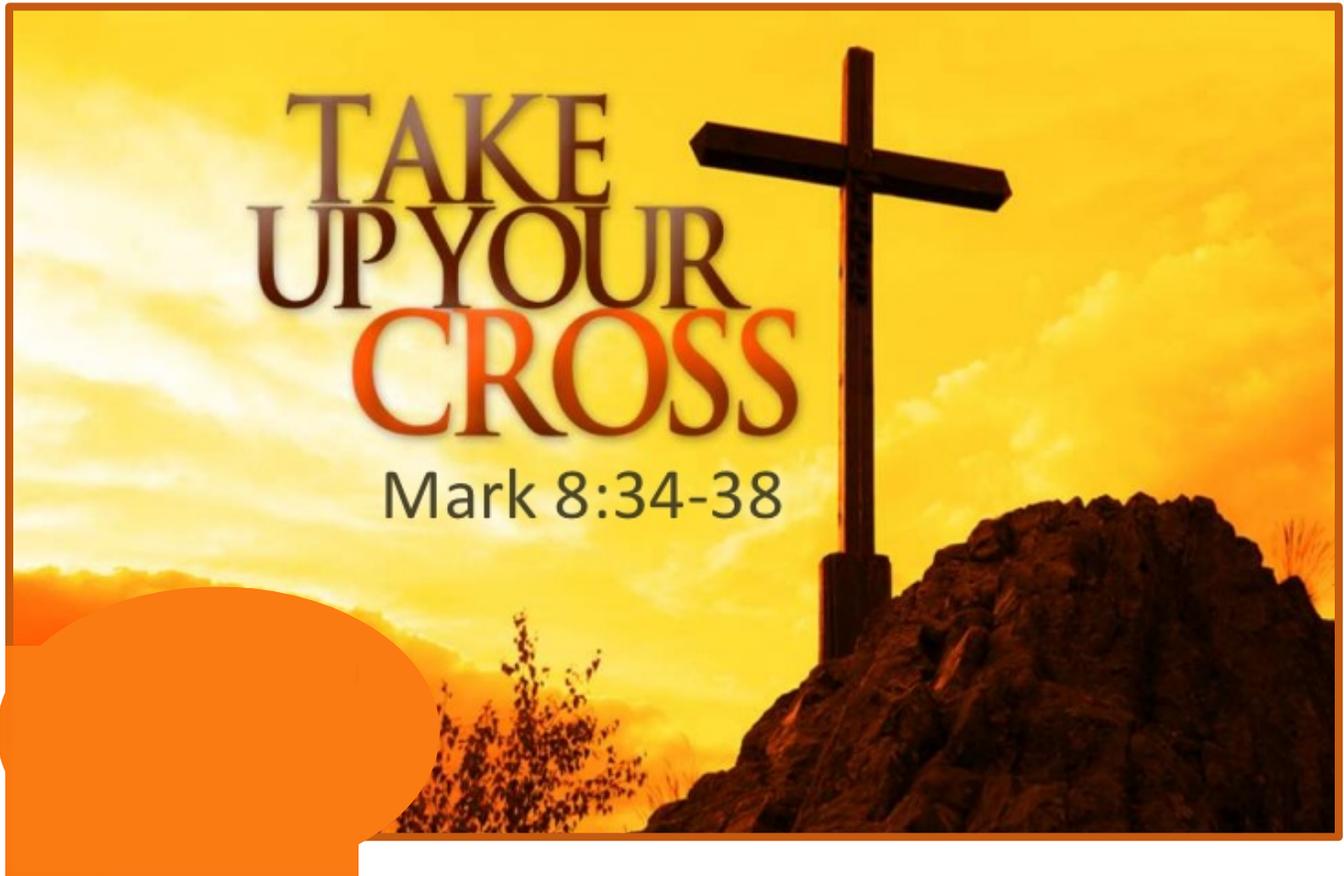


Celebration of Worship

Online – February 28, 2021



The second Sunday in Lent

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Debora Stein, Pastor

You'll also find our church on Facebook



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

CONFESSION

Pastor Deb Stein

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.

Let us confess our sin, with whispering voices,
trusting in the abundant grace of God.

(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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #324 "In The Cross of Christ I Glory". VS. 1,2,3,4

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen, The congregation is invited to hum.*

GREETING**Pastor Deb Stein**

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.

KYRIE (ELW page 203)**John Keating**

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen/The congregation is invited to hum.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY**Assistant**

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.**

WORD - *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

READING: *(Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16)***Assistant**

A reading from Genesis

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.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: (*Romans 4:13-25*)

Assistant

A reading from Romans

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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW PAGE 205

John Keating

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen, the congregation is invited to hum.*

GOSPEL*(Mark 8:31-38)***Pastor Deb Stein**

The Gospel according to Mark **Glory to you, O Lord**

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 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**Pastor Deb Stein**

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #667 Take Up Your Cross. VS. 1,3,4

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen, the congregation is invited to hum.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assistant

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. After the words “Hear us, O God” you may respond “Your Mercy is great”. *(A brief silence.)*

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression, especially those on our prayer list and those we offer now, out loud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 our ministries and services to families in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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

MEAL – *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

Assistant

- *Title Slide only – with the words, “Let’s be a blessing for others as Christ has been a blessing for us all.”[use same slide each week – also an image would be good]*

God works in us, and through us, using all that we give to support our ministries, including the care of those in need. If you’re having a difficult time, please let Pastor Deb know. If you have a stable income and can give even a little more, we are deeply grateful. Let’s be a blessing for others as Christ has been a blessing for us all.

- *give a few moments before beginning the prayer*

Let us pray....

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. **Amen.**

OFFERING SLIDE (“ways to give”)

- *Slide remains up through Anthem, or it can be up for a while and then show others*

ANTHEM: “The Staff of Faith” By Craig Courtney

PEACE:

- *Slide should show only the following two phrases (no the other comments)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

- Those present are encouraged to offer a sign of peace from where they are sitting, such as a nod, a bow, or placing one’s hands over their heart.
- Those watching, as well as all of us here, are urged to reach out to others, in whatever way we’re able. Check in with each other as a sign of God’s love and peace for us all.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Deb Stein

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to

It is right to give our

The Lord, our God

thanks and praise

The table of bread is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate, [flesh and blood].

So come to this table,

[receive Christ in this meal of communion]

you who have much faith

and you who would like to have more;

you who have been here often

and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow Jesus,

and you who have failed.

[All are invited to take part from where you are seated]

Come; it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Let us pray,

Loving God,

through your goodness

we have this bread and wine/grape juice to offer,

which has come forth from the earth

and human hands have made it.

May we know your presence in the sharing,

so that we may know your... presence in all things. **Amen.**

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy...): ELW page 207

John Keating

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen, the congregation is invited to hum.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Pastor Deb Stein

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.

Made one In Christ and one with each other,
we praise God and give our thanks for this gift of life.
All praise and glory are yours,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most high,
on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Deb Stein

Let's pray, together, using the words that Jesus 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Deb Stein

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to him, in this meal and be fed.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS SLIDES (shown during THE LAMB OF GOD)

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Page 208

John Keating

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen, the congregation is invited to hum.*
- *After Lamb of God – CHECK IN with everyone to make sure they were successful in unpacking their communion kit. Then the service continues...*



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant

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. **Amen.**

SENDING - *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Deb Stein

Lenten Study

- If you're interested in joining our Wednesday evening Study, "Lenten Journey – 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer." Please call the office and let us know. There are just a few books left.

Worship Video

- Our worship, this morning, is live on Facebook, but the video will be saved and uploaded to both our Facebook and YouTube pages this afternoon, and available to watch any time after that.

Other

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from pastoral care or contact, please let me know. I will reach out however I'm able.

SENDING HYMN: ELW #802 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

- *The words of the hymns are not printed on the screen, the congregation is invited to hum.*

BLESSING

Pastor Deb Stein

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. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assistant

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Fanfare Postlude" by Douglas Wagner; Lorenz

Those Who've Served During Worship Today

Presiding	Rev Deb Stein
Assisting	Margit Backus
Music	Mary Lohr, Music Director, Organist
Solo	John Keating
Voices	St. Paul's Singers

Acknowledgements

ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) Hymnal

Great Thanksgiving adapted from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, Shane Clairborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Enuma Okoro, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan

All other Liturgy and Text from sundaysandseasons.com.

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