



The Second Sunday in Lent

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
His mercy endures for ever.



### **The Decalogue:**

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Honor your father and your mother.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit murder.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit adultery.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not steal.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not be a false witness.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

### **THE CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

## **Psalm 22:22-30**

### *Deus, Deus meus*

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears them.  
24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.  
25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"  
26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.  
27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.  
28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.  
29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.  
30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

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 for ever. Amen.

## THE FIRST LESSON

### Romans 4:13-25

For 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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

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, 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. 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." 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. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## THE CANTICLE

*Creator of the earth and skies, to whom the words of life belong,  
grant us your truth to make us wise; grant us your power to make us strong.*

*We have not known you: to the skies our monuments of folly soar,  
and all our self-wrought miseries have made us trust ourselves the more.*

*We have not loved you: far and wide the wreckage of our hatred spreads,  
and evils wrought by human pride recoil on unrepentant heads.*

*For this, our foolish confidence, our pride of knowledge and our sin,  
We come to you in penitence; in us the work of grace begin.*

*Teach us to know and love you, Lord, and humbly follow in your way.  
Speak to our souls the quickening word, and turn our darkness into day.*

*(David. W. Hughes 1911-1967)  
(TH 1982 # 148)*

## THE SECOND LESSON

### Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples 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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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.”

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. 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 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.”

## REFLECTION

By  
Norm Wright

Jesus, help us to set our minds on divine things. Amen



In today's second lesson, we hear the story of Peter rebuking Jesus for having told his disciples that he would suffer, be rejected by the religious authorities, killed, and rise again. Peter believe Jesus was the Messiah, but his understanding of a messiah was someone who was going to defeat the Romans and restore the Kingdom of David as in the past. The last thing Peter wanted to hear was Jesus toying with what sounded like defeat by the very people he was trying to liberate.

Peter simply didn't get it, and let's be honest, would we have gotten it any better at the time, living in an environment of constant oppression? Defeat was all the people in Judea had known and now Jesus, who appeared in Peter's mind as the best hope at freeing them of such oppression, was talking in riddles about being killed and raised from the dead. Part of Peter's concern was that Jesus wasn't going to attract needed followers to accomplish what Peter thought a messiah needed, an army. What Jesus was telling his disciples would hardly serve to recruitment people to his cause.

Jesus hit the pause button on Peter's rebuke with a stern rebuke of his own, calling Peter Satan - the Father of Lies; a poignant way of telling Peter he was surfing on the illusions of this world and not focusing on the bigger picture, on things divine. What Peter could not see or understand is what Jesus was referencing, the context in which all these things would occur, the fulfillment of what God had promised to Abraham. At this stage, Peter was lacking an understanding the ways of God. He was unable to comprehend the Mystery of Faith Jesus was referencing.

Picking up on Peter's concern about recruiting people, Jesus says, "*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 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.*"

This statement has its connection to the paradox mentioned in last Sunday's reflection; the paradox of being in the world but not of the world. Jesus' statement on denying self begs the question what *denying oneself and taking up one's cross* means. Is Jesus literally meaning that people should seek the martyrdom Jesus would face? I think not.

Denying oneself is contingent on knowing oneself. I see in Jesus' appeal to follow him a plea to recognize who we truly are and whose we truly are. Each of us is a unique creation with specific abilities and disabilities - strengths and weaknesses. The cross we bear is largely ourselves. In this sense Jesus is inviting us to be grounded in the symbolic paradox of the cross, to be in the world but not of the world - to pick ourselves up, brush aside our selfish ways, and follow Jesus' example and teachings.

Exploring who we truly are as children of God is a good Lenten exercise. What are our strengths? What are our weaknesses? What is illusionary in our lives? What is real?

On a personal level, one might ask: What do I have to let go of (deny)? What is the cross I am bearing? Does it have a name? Can I embrace it and hold on to it? What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus today? What are the difficulties in doing so? What are the benefits? Am I carrying my despair or am I shouldering the burden of fulfillment? Am I doing both?

Setting our minds on the divine and embracing the Mystery of Faith allows us spiritual freedom to sidestep the fear, the hatred, and the difficult with love and patience, because we know this world is not an end in itself. This world will pass away and with it all of the illusions, difficulties, fears, and hatreds contained in its numerous moments. What will remain is that which is not of this world, the incorruptible, the divine essence of all creation, and the true essence of who we.

Amen.

# Hymn

*“Come follow me,” the Savior spake, “All in my way abiding:  
deny yourselves, the world forsake, obey my call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, where’re betide, take my example for your guide.”*

*“I am the light, I light the way, a godly life displaying:  
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show how you must sojourn here below.”*

*My heart abounds in lowliness, my soul with love is glowing;  
and gracious words my lips express, with meekness overflowing.  
My heart, my mind , my strength, my all, to God I yield on him I call.*

*(Johann Scheffler 1624-1677)  
(Lutheran Service Book # 688)*



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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of Love, we pray for the whole Church and our parish family. Guide your Church and this parish in the way of truth and love.



God of Healing, we pray for Bernard, Sue, Bev Ann, Pat Michels, Jolene, Darold, Jim Black and for those we hold in our hearts. On this Sunday we prayer for Deacon John Keyes. Grant unto all in need of comfort your healing presence.

God of Joy, we pray for those celebrating birthdays this past week: Sue Lauck, (Feb. 22) and this week Kim Houfek (Feb. 28) Haley Luke (March1), and Chris “Lucky” Adam (March 5) . May they find joy, happiness, and fulfillment in the coming year.

God our Protector, we pray for those affected by Covid-19; for healthcare workers around the world; for those who provide essential services, first responders, fire fighters, police. We pray for the leaders of all nations, for all government officials every where, and for all those making decisions in times of crisis. Grant them protection and guide those in authority to make wise decisions.

God our Defender, we pray for the homeless and the jobless in our nation, and for those who have lost their homeland, their sense of security, and who find themselves dependent on the good will of others in strange lands; that their needs are met and grant them the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

God of Life, we pray for those who have died. May all the departed find life in you.

God of Mission, we pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all who serve your Church. Grant them guidance in their various ministries and guide us in our mission to enlarge the Family of Faith in our midst.

### **THE PRAYER FOR MISSION**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent you blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near; Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into you fold; pour out you Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of you kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

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*The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.*