

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**  
**Second Sunday in Lent,**  
**Year B**



*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmington DE*  
*Leader Pages*

**GATHERING**

**Prelude** - *Cantor*

**Confession and Forgiveness** - *Presiding Minister*

*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.**

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.**

# Gathering Song - ELW 343 vs. 1 & 3

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
 4 We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made a -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior  
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to

be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my  
 know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who  
 king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and  
 slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that

Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 at my need his life did spend!  
 for his death we thirst and cry.  
 he his foes from thence might free.

**Greeting** - *Presiding Minister*

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** - *Kyrie Setting 5*

**Canticle of Praise** - *Glory to God Setting 5*

**Prayer of the Day** - *Assistant Minister*

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**

### **First Reading (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16) - *Lector***

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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm - 2:23-31**

23 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.

24 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.

25 From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the  
Lord.

26 The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts |  
live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the  
Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

28 For dominion belongs | to the Lord,

who rules o- | ver the nations.

29 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.

30 Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

31 They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet  
unborn,

saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!"

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

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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation** - *Lenten Acclamation Setting 5*

### **Gospel (Mark 8:31-38)** - *Preacher*

The Holy 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. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 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."

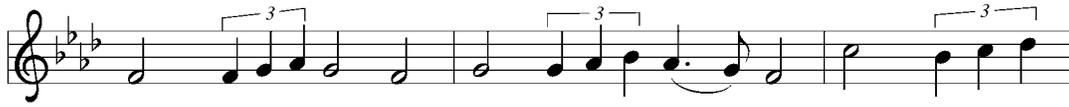
34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 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 Jason

# Hymn of the Day - ELW 327



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward  
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the  
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as  
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -  
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and  
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the  
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -  
 ter - ror, bright - ning all the path we tread. One the  
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the  
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the  
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which  
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -  
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of  
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing  
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y  
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.  
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.  
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

**Creed** - Lector

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession** - *Lector*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**Offering Song** - *ELW 336 - Cantor*

**Offering Prayer** - *Assistant Minister*

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love,  
you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together  
with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us  
the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may  
become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

**Amen.**

**Dialogue & Thanksgiving** - *Presiding Minister*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

**We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life.

For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

**We glorify you, O God.**

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all.

For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

**We praise you, O God.**

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing, Holy God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,

your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing** - *Presiding Minister*

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 Minister*

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

### **Postlude** - *Cantor*