

# Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

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## PRELUDE

*Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said*

arr. Howard Helvey

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

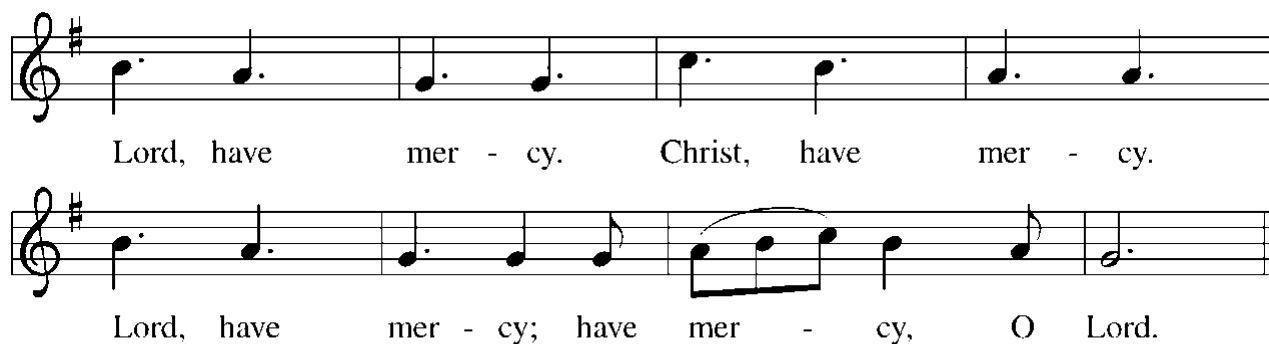
## INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

## KYRIE

ELW 154



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

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie  
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**CONFESSION**

P: God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

C: 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.

**KYRIE** (*repeat – see above*)

**ELW 154**

**ABSOLUTION**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN**

***O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days***

**ELW 319**

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*A reading from Genesis...*

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. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant

with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 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. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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.”

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 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.” (NRSV)

*The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:13-25**

*A reading from Romans, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter...*

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 Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

## LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Setting 2**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

*A gospel reading from Mark, the first chapter... **Glory to you, O Lord.***

[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. 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." (NRSV)

*Holy Words, Holy Wisdom; **Praise to you, O Christ.***

MESSAGE

HYMN

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

ELW 324

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining lines. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature.

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.

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: On this second Sunday in Lent, let us pray for the church and for all people in need, responding to each petition with words from today’s psalm, “hear us, we pray.”

A: God of mercy and might, bless your church throughout the world. Uphold those believers who suffer for the sake of your gospel. Strengthen the faith of all the baptized, and make your presence felt by those unable to assemble for worship. When we cry out, O faithful God,

**C: hear us, we pray.**

A: Bless the earth. Save the animals and their habitats from wild and uncontrolled weather. Teach humanity to live respectful of nature and to join you in tending to creation’s well-being. When we cry out, O wondrous God,

**C: hear us, we pray.**

A: Bless the nations of the world. 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. Lead all people around the world to receive the COVID-19 vaccine with gratitude to you. Grant to our Congress the wisdom and the will to improve the lives of all our residents. When we cry out, O righteous God,

**C: hear us, we pray.**

A: Bless all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. We beg that you bring an end to the pandemic. Restore medical systems, and comfort all who are sick or dying. Lead us out of the practices of discrimination. Bring vindication for victims of injustice and relief to oppressed minorities. We remember before you . . . . When we cry out, O benevolent God,

**C: hear us, we pray.**

A: Bless families: those in our community, those waiting at national borders, those whose struggles are known only to you. Keep children safe; sustain expectant parents and those facing infertility; protect women in childbirth. Accompany everyone who lives alone. Equip the ministries and services of church and state that attend to families in their needs. When we cry out, O loving God,

**C: hear us, we pray.**

A: Praises to you, O God, for centuries of saints whose faithfulness inspires our Lenten journey. Bless those who mourn the half million dead of the virus. Be our way, our truth, our life, and strengthen our faith in the gift of your final salvation.

**C: hear us, we pray.**

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **OFFERING AND THE PEACE**

*We invite you to give online at [www.stmatthewsva.org/give](http://www.stmatthewsva.org/give) and to share a sign of peace with one another. Take a moment to send a text, put a message in the YouTube chat, or give a hug.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Chris Moessner and Joyce Forbes  
ELW 325 OneLicense.net

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: 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.

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

P: We are right to praise you, faithful God! You answer sin with grace; you guide our wayward steps toward home. You are mending for the broken, safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast, strength for the weak, pardon for the sinner. You reveal your kindness in every sorrow, your mercy even in death. All your creatures see your works; they sing your steadfast love. We too declare your wonder and grace as with angels and saints we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.*

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 all people for the forgiveness of your sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new. Bless this bread which you have given and human hands have made. Let it become for us the bread of life. Bless also, this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. Let it become for us the cup of salvation. Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living Christ who is with us now and to the end of the age.

We proclaim together:

**C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P: Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

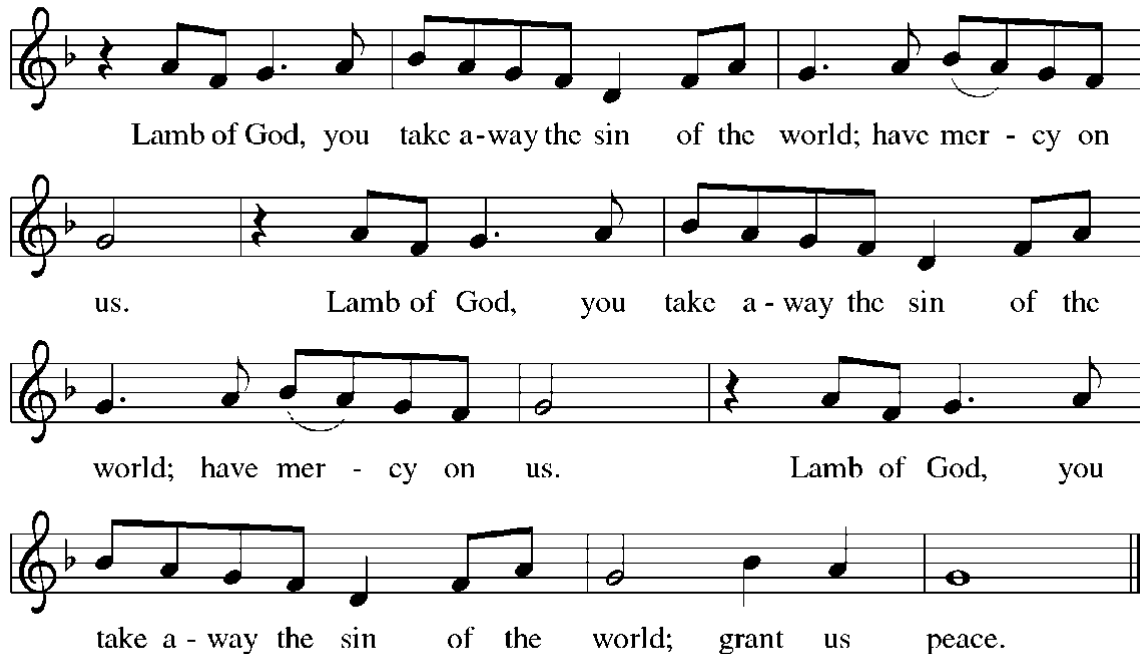


## THE DISTRIBUTION

All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. If you are receiving communion alone, we extend to you: **The body of Christ given for you. And the blood of Christ shed for you.** If you are taking communion with others, give the bread to the person sitting next to you and say, "**The body of Christ given for you.**" Then, giving the wine/grape juice say, "**And the blood of Christ shed for you.**"

## LAMB OF GOD

## Setting 2



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

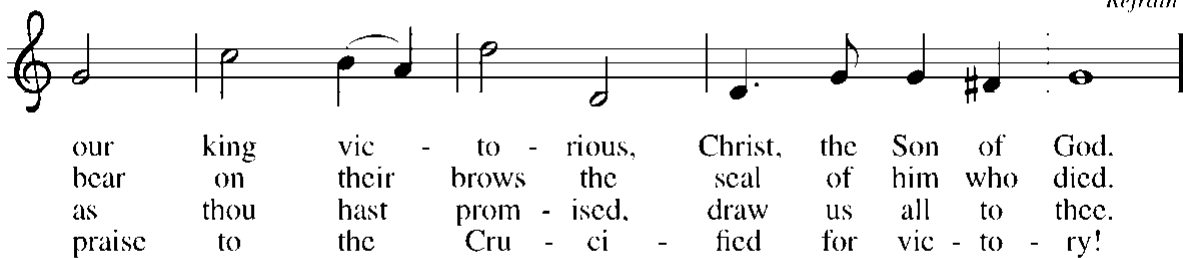
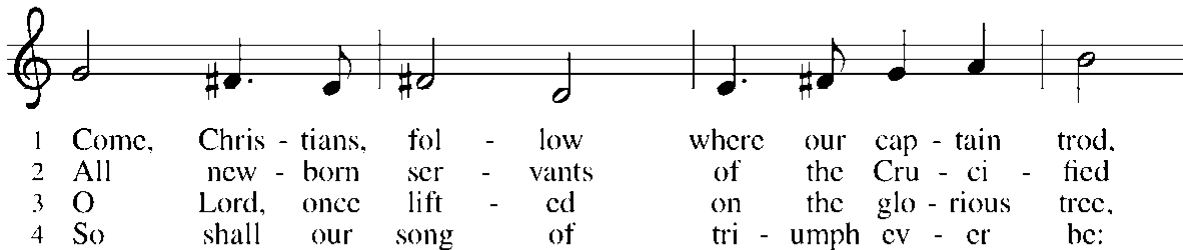
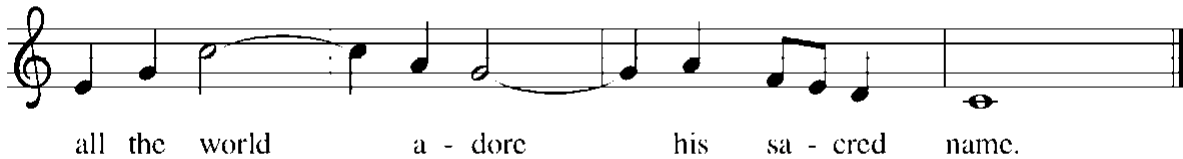
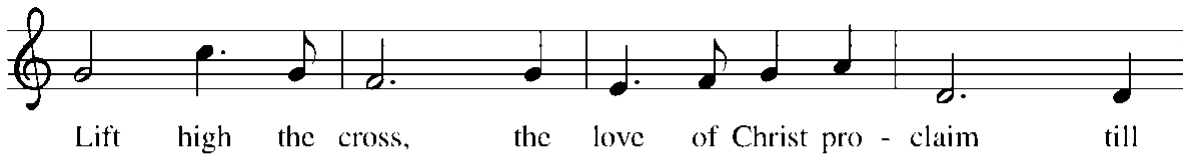
P: Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion – oneness of heart, love for the stranger, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: Amen!



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God, and we will!

**POSTLUDE***In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

arr. Ronald A. Nelson

The flowers on the altar today are sponsored by The Lamberts in celebration of Sienna's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday!

The Eternal Candle is sponsored this month by Bruce Taylor in memory of Carol Tumbleson Taylor.

**Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's**

Pastor: Rev. Scott E. Zimmerer, cell 214-918-4444

Pastor: Rev. Emily Ebert, cell 614-266-3300

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