A weathered, light-colored stone cross is centered in the image. It is set against a solid red background that has a slightly textured appearance. The cross is made of two rectangular pieces of stone joined at the center, with some visible wear and a crack running down the vertical beam. The top and bottom of the cross extend into the light gray, textured areas above and below the red band.

*Those  
who lose  
their  
life*

*for my  
sake  
will  
save it*

MARK 8:35



## The Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 28, 2021

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*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

### GATHERING

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 HYMN

### “God Loved the World”



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>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.”

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>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 before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

### **SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.” <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>[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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>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."

<sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>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."

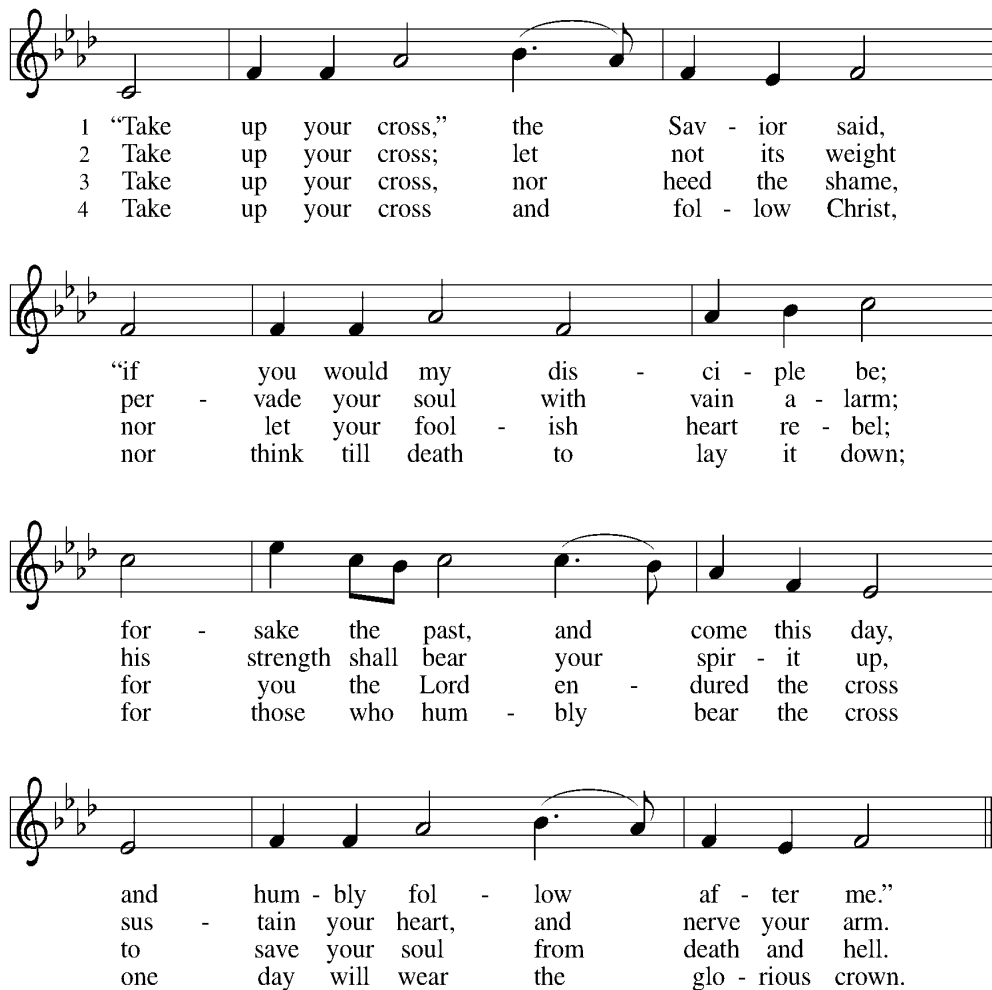
The gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"



1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,  
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
for you the Lord en - dured the cross  
for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
to save your soul from death and hell.  
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

## 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**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

### "Around You, O Lord Jesus"



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still  
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;  
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.  
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.  
we will be true and nev - er—in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my  
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your  
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"  
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.  
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

## OFFERING

*We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings may be dropped off at church or sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs, we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert. pouring out his life for the world.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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

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

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. You may use your own bread and wine or juice for communion. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

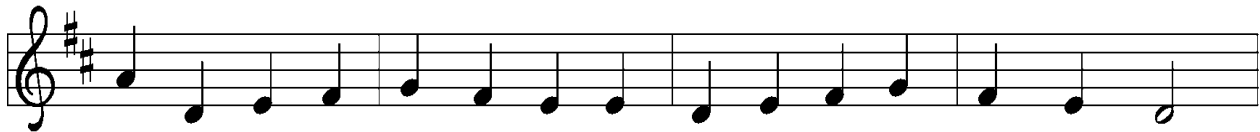
## BLESSING

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.**

## SENDING HYMN

### “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”



- 1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
- 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
- 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
- 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

*(Continued on the next page..)*





full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.


Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

 Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.		
Cindy Staebel	Karen Rathjen	Meyer Mixdorf
Arnie Lindaman	Carolyn Scheibe	Ed Geest
Carol Judge	Joni King	Nancy Nichols
Michelle Weltzin- Trainor	Sally Puls	Bob Morehead
Ron McFate	Pat Hoffman	Craig
Sue Oetzman	June Dierks	Gary
Phyllis Hamann	Ann Kuehl	Lois
Kristina Gehrls	Jensen Spencer	Bob
Don Stoltenberg	Michael Schafer	Algean
Nancy Meyer	Karen Muetzel	Carolynn
Kathy Stoltz	Peyton Langebartles	John
	Sherri Westemeier	