

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 3 & 4, 2012

AS WE GATHER

Although we are in the Second Sunday in Lent, the first lesson pushes back time. Last week we heard how God asked Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son. Now we hear how Abraham and Sarah received a son long after they were capable of bringing forth a child of their own. The covenant God made with Abraham was the promise of many descendants. St. Paul reminds us that we are children of Abraham by faith and heirs of the promise our Lord gave. Perhaps this gives us a very different perspective on our ancestry and on our place within the long line of those who believed the Word of the Lord and were accorded the status of His sons and daughters.

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN # 418 "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

(Please rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

People: for they have been of old.

Pastor: You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord,

People: For He is our help and our shield.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are assembled here to hear the Word of God, to call upon Him in prayer, and to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is good that we reflect upon our unworthiness, confessing before God our sins of thought, word, and deed, and our helplessness to free ourselves from our sinful nature. It is also good that we remember who we are as the baptized children of God, to whom the Lord has shown His mercy, cleansed from all our sin, and declared righteous in Christ our Lord. We come here today to lay claim again to the grace in which we are forgiven, and, for the sake of Christ, to be restored by His mercy to serve Him and walk in His ways. Let us confess our sins.

People: I confess to God almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

SALUTATION and COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you see that of ourselves we have no strength. By your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (*Abraham and Sarah receive the pledge of God that they shall have the son He has promised them.*) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no

longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

EPISTLE Romans 5:1-11 (*Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

5:00 & 10:30 *"Teach Me, O Lord"* *St. Paul's School Children*
(Please rise)

GOSPEL Mark 8:27-38 (*Peter boldly confesses Jesus as Lord and then is caught up in his fears as Jesus describes what it means for Him to be Lord and suffer the cross for us.*) Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but

whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN # 798 **"The God of Abraham Praise"**
Stanzas 1-3 & 9 Rise last stanza

SERMON *"Who is Jesus to You"* Mark 8:27-38

(Please rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear God, Lord of the Church, we pray that you bless and guide pastor Harold Bender as he considers the call we have extended to him to serve as our senior pastor. Bless his family as they pray about this and as pastor Bender seeks your will, and our brothers and sisters at St. John Lutheran Church, whom pastor Bender now serves. This we pray according to your will, and in the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Gracious God, we pray for the church throughout the world, that the good news of the Gospel be spread faithfully. We commend to you our Guatemala mission team, asking your guidance and protection for them, and blessing on their ministry. We pray:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for Lutheran schools, for faculty and staff, that they will lead

students to continue to grow in faith and knowledge; and we pray for all students, that their efforts be blessed. We pray:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for your people throughout the world, that they may live in peace and with dignity; and we pray for all those who work for security in the world, including: Steven, Eric, Eli, Jon, Ryan, Richard, Dan, and Josh. We pray:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the ill, that they may have comfort and peace. We commend to your loving care: Marion, Harold, Elfrieda, Bea, Paula, Lois, Ruth, Joe, Dolores and Samuel. We pray for the grieving and those who remember loved ones, including Virginia remembering her parents. We pray:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We praise your name in thanksgiving with Eleanor and Henry. We pray:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We offer these prayers along with those we hold in our hearts.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

AGNUS DEI # 550

"Lamb of God"

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN # 563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

HYMN # 430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed Lord, you have declared us your own sons and daughters by Baptism and faith, heirs with Abraham and Sarah of the promise of your grace. Give to us your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim Jesus Christ without fear and bear the cross faithfully throughout our earthly lives, until we rest in your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 837

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Preacher

Pastor Bryan O'Connor

Lectors

Frank Coogan, school children

Acolytes

Sara Schultz, David Ullerich, Nicholas Alioto

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

March 7, 2012 ~ 10:00am & 6:00pm

Roads and paths, Roman highways and shepherd's trails, Biblical Palestine was crisscrossed with them. People leaving somewhere and headed toward someplace... what's left behind can be as significant as what lies ahead.

Our 2012 midweek and Holy Week Lenten series focuses on some **roads** *to* and *from* in the Bible. Roads that we'll walk together.



ON THE ROAD TO BETHANY

Questions With Wet Feet John 1:19-28

Our Wednesday Lenten Meal will begin at 4:45pm.
Volunteers are always needed!!