

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Citizens of Heaven

February 20 - 21, 2016

### AS WE GATHER

In today's Epistle, Paul urges us to imitate him in rejecting those whose "minds are set on earthly things" and self-glory. Rather, we are to stand "firm thus in the Lord." God's people in Jeremiah's time had their minds set on themselves and the physical temple rather than on the Lord. This was the Lord's house and still was in Jesus' day, though by then He could announce, "Behold, your house is forsaken." The Lenten mind-set keeps in focus that our citizenship is in heaven. We shall endeavor, with our Lord's help, to keep that mind-set foremost as we journey to Good Friday and Easter.

### WELCOME

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN #570 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Assistant: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Assistant: Today is the Lord's Day, a Sunday *in* Lent, but not part *of* it—a little  
Easter. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,

**People: in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assistant: O Lord, open my lips,

**People: and my mouth will declare your praise.**

Assistant: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**People: make haste to help me, O Lord. 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  
forever. Amen.**

### CONFESSION

Assistant: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Assistant: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

Assistant: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and  
praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the  
fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and  
confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought,  
word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful  
condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite  
mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of  
Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to  
everlasting life. Amen.**

Assistant: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism you declared us to be  
your children and gathered us into your one, holy Church, in which you  
daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through your  
Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our  
prayer and praise; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assistant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Assistant: Let us pray. O God, you see that of ourselves, we are prone to set our minds on earthly things and our own self-glory.

**People: By your mighty power, turn our eyes toward our citizenship in heaven, anticipating our Lord's return at the end of all things;**

Assistant: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

### **✠ WORD ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 26:8–15* (The people defend the temple against God's prophet.) But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! Why do you prophesy in the LORD's name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?" And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!" Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

**EPISTLE** *Philippians 3:17–4:1* (Stand firm in the Lord.)

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from

there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 13:31–35* (Jesus wanted to gather His brood, but they would not.) At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

(Be seated)

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"**

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;  
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands 'Tis a delightful road- N  
or let my head of heart or hands Offend against my God.

**SERMON "Our Citizenship In Heaven, A Trust O Lord, From Thee"**

Philippians 3:17-4:1

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED** (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

**OFFERTORY #781 “We Give Thee But Thine Own”** Stanzas 1,5,6

We give Thee but Thine own Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

(Rise)

#### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Assistant: As people invited to believe that God is our true Father and that we are His true children, let us pray with all boldness and confidence in the way that dear children speak to their father. Lord of the Church, gather your people as a hen gathers her chicks and keep them in true faith.

**People: Bring to unity all the members of your Holy Church and defend her from all enemies of the cross of Christ.**

Assistant: O God, our refuge and strength, bless and protect our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for believing in and following Jesus. Grant them courage, confidence and boldness to confess Jesus, trusting Him who has conquered death.

**People: Let us pray also for their persecutors, that the God who wants all people to be saved would turn enemies of the Gospel to repentance and faith.**

Assistant: O Holy Spirit, grant to your people a strong and steadfast faith that responds to threats with the firm conviction that we will obey the Lord no matter the consequences.

**People: Instill in us all a confidence that Jesus' resurrection delivers us even from death.**

Assistant: Lord of deliverance, we pray for all who are troubled by addictions, asking that you would show them mercy, assure them of forgiveness, and break the bonds that enslave them.

**People: Bless us to support and encourage them in their struggles and strengthen them to overcome their addictions.**

Assistant: Lord of compassion and hope, we pray for those who are struggling with disease or trouble, including Rosalie, Charlene, Bob, Marion, Richard, Marion, Debra, Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah. Grant them healing according to your will and comfort in knowing you will never leave or forsake them.

**People: Bless them also by your Holy Spirit with peace, patience, encouragement and the hope that there will be an end to their suffering.**

Assistant: Lord of the Kingdom, by your grace in Jesus Christ, we are your subjects, citizens of heaven. Forgive us those times when our priorities get mixed up, our witness is clouded, and our citizenship is questionable.

**People: Enable us to demonstrate that we are citizens of your Kingdom in the use of our time, our gifts, and our Support of the kingdom here and throughout the world.**

Assistant: Bless all missionaries both at home and in faraway places, especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and His family.

**People: Make them bold to proclaim your truth and protect them in both body and soul.**

Assistant: Lord of all hope, we pray for those who grieve; especially this day we remember the family and friends of our sister, Virginia Sell. Grant them comfort in the midst of grief, strength in the days ahead, and your presence in their tears.

**People: Sustain them with the certain hope of the resurrection and the victory over death won for us by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Assistant: Lord of hosts, we pray for those who serve in the military, asking you to protect their lives and give them bravery, loyalty, strength and reliability for their tasks.

**People: Fill us with thankfulness for their service and the support of our prayers.**

Assistant: Sacrificial Lord, we pray for all who receive your body and blood this day, that as we receive forgiveness of our sins, we would be reminded that our citizenship is in heaven.

**People:** Turn our minds from earthly things and prepare us for the coming of our Savior whom we eagerly await.

Assistant: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People:** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

**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 #664 "Fight the Good Fight"

Fight the good fight with all your might;

Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;

Lift up your eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies;

Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and enduring faith shall prove

Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;

Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

### HYMN #621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears a way.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

### HYMN #748 "I'm But a Stranger Here"

I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;

Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.

Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;

Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;

Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;

And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;

I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home;

Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home;

And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand;

Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have again assured us of the gift of your Son's own righteousness that came in our Baptism.

Keep our minds set on His grace and mercy throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of your Son's coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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**

Pastor: With David, we respond to God's grace and mercy:

**People: In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you in the shelter of His wings. The LORD make His face shine on you and lift your eyes heavenward. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"**

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Principal Rick Schneider  
Russell Hurst, Jodi Drew, John Ficken  
Dante Militello, Sophie Moravec, Laura Quigley  
Roger Gottschalk

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## **Restored in Christ - Our Midweek Lenten Journey**

### **Midweek - February 24: "Broken Trust" based on Matthew 26:14-25**

Lenten Meal: Sloppy Joes, cowboy baked beans, fresh veggies, chips, strawberry cheesecake bars. Hot dog meals served weekly, along with juice, milk & coffee.

### **Call Committee has been formed**

*As Roger Gottschalk has expressed his clear intention to retire at the end of this school year and as Shannon Krueger's husband, Brian, has accepted a call up north which will prevent her from serving as our school music director, we are seeking a full-time Director of Music to lead our programs for both church and school.*

*A Call Committee has been formed with the following members: Rick Schneider, chairperson, Marty Osell, Stacy Kukor, Rebecca Knight, Mike Carson, Dale Pipkorn, Melissa Leon, and Pastor Bender. We are seeking candidates that are commissioned ministers of the Gospel in the LCMS. If you have a name of someone you think would be a blessing to St. Paul's, please submit their name and contact information to the school or church office.*

