

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Second Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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Introduction

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"** **#324 ELW**
 Please Stand on the Last Verse

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Option A, B or C?

APOSTOLIC 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:

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.

Please be seated

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

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 the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

²³You 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.

²⁴**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.**

²⁵From 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!**

²⁷All 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 over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

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

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

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah

were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

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 the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Glory to you, O Lord

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But 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.”

³⁴He 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. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for

We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor our common humanity within diversity. Turn enemies into friends. Lead us away from hatred, fear, and misunderstanding. Show our hearts the way to peace and fill us with compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For people whose struggles we fail to acknowledge. For those who leave their homes and families in search of safety or employment. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those who prepare this space for worship. For ministries of fellowship and hospitality. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for all who provide care and support to those who are homebound. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in the faith (*especially deaconess Elizabeth Fedde*). Bring them to the fullness of their inheritance in Christ and into the joy of eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep

you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Ever Lasting God" (Insert)

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Winnie Zahradka & Darrell Kelly

Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson

Lector: Kathy Carlson

Hospitality Hosts: Quilters: Marge, Bev, Dorothy, Ellen

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018: 9:00 am 73 Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 29

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

February 26 – March 4, 2018

Monday	2/26	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/27	12:00-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/28	8:00-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:30 pm	Praise
Thursday	3/1	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	3/2	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	3/3	1:00-3:00pm	Foot Clinic
Sunday	3/4	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

BLESSING BOX Next Sunday will be a "Blessing Box" Sunday. All donations will be directed to Feed My Starving Children.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN The date is set!! Please join us in packing meals at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday, April 12 from 12 noon-2pm in Coon Rapids. Those interested in car-pooling will meet at Bethesda Lutheran at 9:30 am. Registration is required so please email the church with the names of those interested in participating. If packing isn't for you, but you are interested in supporting a special donation from Bethesda Lutheran of Malmo, consider any or all of the following opportunities: 1. Blessing box offering in February and March. 2. Mark your envelope with a special donation for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). There are over 22 people already registered; sign up soon!

BETHESDA QUILTERS need your help. We can use your clean, used mattress pads, blankets and bedspreads to put in our Lutheran World Relief quilts. Please drop off by quilting door in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY The Wednesday morning (9am) bible study group just started a new series, so if you have ever been curious, now is a good time to stop by! We will listen to a series of lectures from the popular "Genesis to Revelations" course at Luther Seminary. Working its way through the whole Bible, this series offers a great overview on all the individual books themselves and the connected themes found throughout the Bible. If you happen to miss a week, no worries, you can listen to the audio online!

FINAL GIFT WORKSHOP First Lutheran Church in Aitkin will be sponsoring a Final Gift Workshop on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. The cost is \$20.00 and lunch is included. Any death is a shock to the family, whether long expected or a sudden accident. During those first few days the family must make many decisions and cope with a tidal wave of details. Our Final Gift is to leave them as much information as possible, in an organized form, so they can more easily make those decisions and plans. Registration required. See bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY There are prayer shawls available in the Narthex if you know someone who is dealing with an extended illness or has recently lost a loved one and would benefit from the gift of a prayer shawl.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION We are looking for volunteers to pick up a church member from Onamia Healthcare Center on Sunday's to attend our church service. Signup sheet will be in the secretary's office.

EVERLASTING GOD

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our strong deliverer
You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint, you won't grow weary

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Come everlasting
To everlasting God you are everlasting.