

2 LENT

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: **ACS 918** *"Now is the Time of Grace"*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the good companionship 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. **Amen!**

*Faith and perseverance can accomplish much. The impossible takes a little longer. **Genesis 17: (selected verses)***

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "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.

"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."

Word of God; Word of Life. **R/ Thanks be to God!**

ELW 798 *"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

When God acts, life happens. Paul calls it “justification.”

Romans 4:18-25

Hoping against hope, Abraham believed 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. (Righteousness) 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.

Word of God; Word of Life. **R/ Thanks be to God!**

Life and faith present paradoxes. Here Jesus lays out the big one!

Mark 8:31-38

Then 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **R/Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: **ELW 803** *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

PRAYERS

WE PLEDGE GOD’S PEACE TO EACH OTHER

CONSECRATION OF BREAD AND WINE

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to

It is right to offer our thanks and praise.

the Lord, our God.

PREFACE and WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Here is bread for the journey - a feast for hungry hearts. All are welcome!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: **ELW 483** *“Here is Bread”*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE:

Lord God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: **ELW 796** *"How Firm a Foundation"*

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.