

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Stand Firm in the Faith

March 15 & 16, 2025

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### AS WE GATHER

How's your faith? Is it firm, steadfast, and strong? Or do you find that it seems to be growing weak, uncertain, or even in danger of disappearing at times? As we follow our Lord in this Lenten season, leading up to the distressing events of Holy Week, we are warned today that the same opposition, rejection, and betrayal faced by prophets like Jeremiah, and even Jesus, will also face us as His followers. What did He mean when He said, "You will be hated by all for My name's sake"? (Luke 21:17). But rather than a dire prediction, Jesus said, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11–12). When challenges arise and temptations overwhelm, we are reminded to remember and observe examples of faith, such as the apostle Paul in his many struggles and even our Lord Himself whose faith and confidence in His Father's gracious design made Him endure "the cross, despising the shame" with the prospect of His certain victory and eternal placement at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). That certainty is ours. Faith hangs on to the promise "I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown" (Revelation 3:11). Or as Paul says, "Therefore, my brothers, . . . my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord" (Philippians 4:1).

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:3-4

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN #728

#### "How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

"Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

"When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

(Rise)

#### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Pastor: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

**People: Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!**

Pastor: Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself;

**People: the LORD hears when I call to Him.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: As we eagerly await our final transformation as citizens of heaven on the day of resurrection, let us above all pursue steadfastness of faith, relying on the power and promises of God our heavenly Father.

**People: O almighty God, our Father in heaven, we come to you in our weakness seeking and imploring the strength of your grace and blessing. Our sins wear us down. Make us desire all that you promise and to firmly believe in your forgiveness and help now and for all our days. We ask this solely for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Good Shepherd.**

Pastor: Even amid the challenges and hardships of life in this world, as citizens of the kingdom of God we have the assurance of grace abounding throughout our days. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

(Be seated)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 26:8–15* (Jeremiah threatened with death)

<sup>8</sup>And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die!” <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. <sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.” <sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Philippians 3:17–4:1* (Our citizenship is in heaven.)

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**10:30 ANTHEM** *“And Can It Be?”*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 13:31–35* (Lament over Jerusalem)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**People: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **“Do You Know Who Died For Me?”**

Do you know who died for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,  
Lovingly He died for me, Yes, He really did.

Do you know who rose for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,  
Lovingly He rose for me, Yes, He really did!

Do you know who lives for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,  
Lovingly He lives for me, Yes, He really does!

Do you know who cares for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,  
Lovingly He cares for me, Yes, He really does.

### **SERMON HYMN #708 “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”**

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne’er from me depart,  
With tender mercy cheer me.

Earth has no pleasure I would share. Yea, heav’n itself were void and bare  
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.

And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought.

Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

Yea, Lord, ‘twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have  
In this poor life of labor.

Lord, grant that I in ev’ry place May glorify Thy lavish grace  
And help and serve my neighbor.

Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.

Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee.

Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr’ham’s bosom bear me home,  
That I may die unfearing;

And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep  
Until Thy reappearing.

And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
And I will praise Thee without end.

### **SERMON**

(Rise)

### **OFFERTORY**

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come.

Amen.

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

## HYMN DURING OFFERING #422 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

(Rise)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Remember the congregations of your Church, O Lord, which you have purchased with the holy blood of your Son. Strengthen and defend all pastors and church workers, giving them every good gift as they attend to your people. Cause us rightly to fear your anger and rejoice in your redemption. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember us in a world convulsed by the wages of sin. As we watch nations falter, remind us that our eternal citizenship is in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ, who will subject all things to Himself. As we watch our own bodies fail, remind us that Christ will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember the households of this congregation, O Lord. Provide help and companionship to those who live alone, and foster love between husbands and wives, parents and children, that our homes would not be places to worship our bellies, glory in shame or set our minds on earthly things, but a refuge while here and a foretaste of our heavenly home. Bless especially the home of Harold and Janice Murach as they celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Keep their love for one another be centered upon you and your love. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember our nation and those you have placed in authority, O Lord. Give them wisdom and integrity, and grant that neither they nor the citizens of our land would hinder your Church or despise your call to repentance. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember the sick, the mourning and the afflicted and afflicted, O Lord. Be with Berta, LeAnn and Steve as they remember Dale Bockus a year after his passing. Be with especially Jack, Kay, Rhonda, Harland, Liz, Jerry, June, Wendy, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Carole,

Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Dorothy, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Deliver them for the sake of Christ, who cast out demons and performed cures on His way to the cross. Strengthen their faith to hold fast to Him, who rose again to raise them also. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember this household of faith, O Lord, and gather us together at your altar as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Unite us in true confession of your Word, sincere repentance for our sins, and joyful confidence in your Son's body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember us, O Lord, for the sake of your Son, who suffered the reproach of mankind as He bore our sins to the cross. Strengthen us gladly to bear reproach in your name and declare your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**People: Amen.**

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

#### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

#### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose tears of lament over Jerusalem, even over all to this day who are unwilling to repent and return to you, drove Him in love to die for all, that whoever turns and believes in Him may have everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

#### SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

#### 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.**

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### PAX DOMINI

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

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

### HYMN #427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

### HYMN #453

### “Upon the Cross Extended”

Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields His breath.

The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.

Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder  
As blood streams from each pore.  
Through grief beyond all knowing From His great heart came flowing  
Sighs welling from its deepest core.

Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so sore abused You  
And caused You all Your woe?

We all must make confession Of sin and dire transgression  
While You no ways of evil know.

I caused Your grief and sighing By evils multiplying  
As countless as the sands.

I caused the woes unnumbered With which Your soul is cumbered,  
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me.

The cross for me enduring, The crown for me securing,  
You healed my wounds and set me free.

Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to You forever,  
I am no longer mine.

To You I gladly tender All that my life can render  
And all I have to You resign.

Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow’r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.

It will, when life is ending, Be guiding and attending  
My way to Your eternal rest.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**People: and His mercy endureth forever.**

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, for sending your Son, our Lord, to be both a sacrifice for our sin and a model of the godly life. By His body and blood, strengthen our faith to stand steadfast as inheritors of your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #825 "Rise, Shine, You People"**

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
Our human story; God in Him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded.

See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, Now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,  
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story Of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Grant Gundersen, Dalen Heinzen  
Deaconess Carole King

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