



Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.
Second Sunday in Lent
The Promise of Identity

GATHERING

WELCOME

We gather in the Triune name of God: who gives us their Word,
whose promise makes us one people, who seals and delivers us.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In this season of Lent, we hear the stories of how God has formed us
out of dust and ash and promises into God's own people.
But time and again our commitment crumbles, and we are scattered by sin.
Beloved, let us return to God, confessing what tears us apart
so that God can put us back together.

A brief silence.

God, we confess: we have sinned.

**We have turned away from you,
away from one another, into ourselves.**

**We have allowed our love of you
to be supplanted by the fear of other things:
death, suffering, weakness, want.**

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.

Help us.

Promise us that even this brokenness can be made well.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray... O Faithful God, give us the faith of Abram and Sarai, who trusted in the promise you made but had not yet fulfilled. We too hold a promise, and wait for you to come again, to make all things well, to wipe away every tear from our eyes. Come, our Way, our Truth, our Life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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 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 God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL – Mark 8:31-38

The gospel according to Mark.

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 the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those 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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Christina Garrett Klein

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each prayer with the words, "**Your mercy is great.**"

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night. We rest securely in you, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

We practice two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition: baptism and holy communion. These are celebrated in community, in public worship, where we can all participate and remember together: God is known for using ordinary earthly things (like water, bread, and wine) to make extraordinary promises (like forgiveness, salvation, healing and new life) to creation.

Today is a good reminder that this simple meal nourishes God's community across time and space - this is why we call it communion. We would rather be with you in person for the sacrament today, but we trust Jesus to show up beyond our limitations, to meet us in this separation with a Spirit that unites, to feed us with the bread of life who is our source and strength.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

We don't serve ourselves communion because there's something holy about that promise coming from outside our own bodies, a perfect declaration from God spoken to us by our neighbor: This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you. If you are gathered with others from your household, speak these words aloud when you serve each other. If you do not have someone in the room with you while you receive the sacrament, hear my voice as the external word of grace and invitation.

+ + *Receive the Meal* + +

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

We pause for prayer and reflection.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of steadfast love, you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.





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Our Mission:

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries, meet with one of our pastors, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to call or email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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***See you next week for worship livestream
at 5pm on Saturday and 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday!
We continue sharing in communion. Please call/email the church
office if you need elements brought to you.***