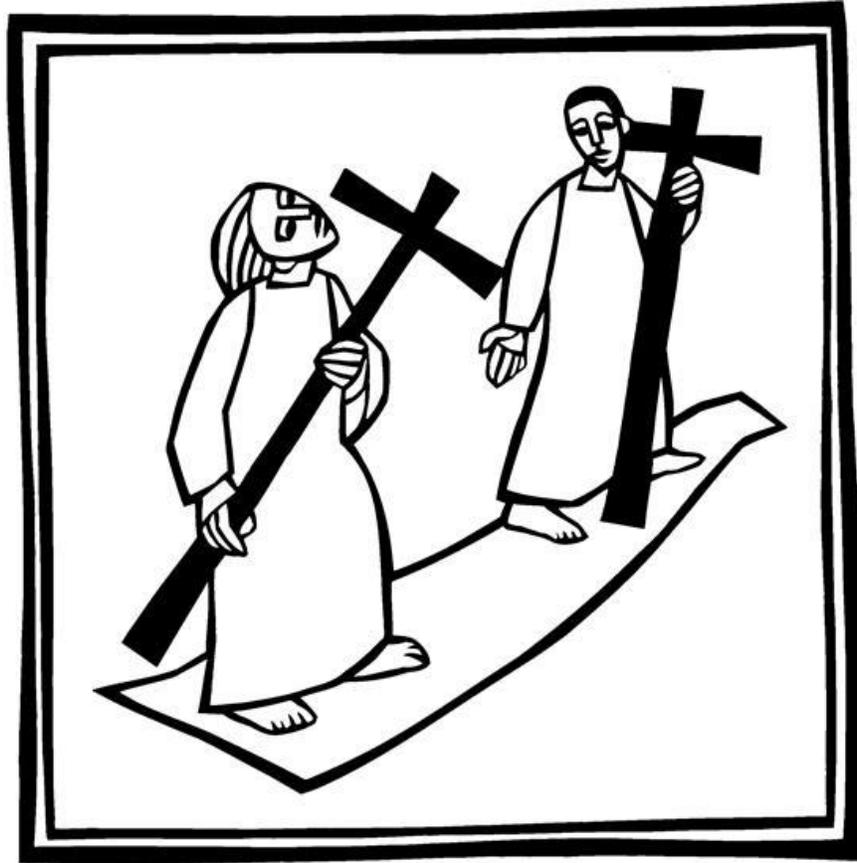


Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church-E.L.C.A.



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.

Second Sunday In Lent Sunday, February 28th, 2021

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 28th, 2021

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Intern Pastor:

Jaime Decker

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering

*Confessions and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins

Call To Worship

Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen. This is part of our invitation as people of faith—to not only speak, pray, and sing, but to listen. And I will be the first to say, listening is hard. From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen, particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing. So for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship, I want to invite you to join me in a kinesthetic call to worship by embodying our prayer as I prompt you. Let us listen, let us pray: Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes. Rest your feet on the floor beneath you. Release any tension you are holding— In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your legs, your feet. Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out. The Hebrew word for breath (ruach) is the same word for Spirit. So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love. Trust that God is as close as your very breath. Now I invite you to still your mind. Imagine your mind as a river. Thoughts will drift into view; they always do. However, instead of holding onto those thoughts, allow yourself to let them float by. And listen. Listen deep. Listen far. Listen wide. Listen. The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine. This is a holy space. Let us worship God.

Call To Confession

L: Often the first step to change is listening. We have to listen to those we've hurt. We have to listen to creation as she cries. We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed, If we ever hope to make things right. So today as we begin our prayer of confession, We will start with a moment of silence— A moment to listen. And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us, And that God's ears listen with love. So let us confess, silently and then together.

Prayer of Confession

L: Listening God, **C: Take what is closed in us and open it. Take what is distracted in us and settle it. Take what is hurting in us and hold it. Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you. For we are like Peter, O God. We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see. And we almost always speak sooner than we listen. So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us. We long to hear you more clearly. We long to know you more fully. With hope we pray, And with gratitude we confess. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

L: Siblings in Christ, We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us. No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand. So rest in this good news: **C: God invites us in. God meets us where we are. God hears our prayers. God forgives us.** L: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Gathering Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

Verse 1

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain: free to all, a healing stream flows from Calvary's mountain. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

***Prayer For Illumination**

L: Creator God, C: **We cannot hear the trees growing—seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun. And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many. We cannot hear the weight of people’s grief, a burden that so often is silent. And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can. You hear it all. So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts, Asking that you would lend us your ears. Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live as you lived. We are listening. Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When 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. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³ Then 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I 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. ¹⁵ God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ 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.” R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Psalm

(Please Read Responsively)

Psalm 22:23-31

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!” R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

¹³For the 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, ¹⁷ as 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, ²¹ being 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, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from

the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to _____ **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ Then he 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. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ 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." ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ 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."

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

Verse 2&3

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me ; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

*Affirmation of Faith

C: We believe.

L: Sometimes our belief is confident, Like a child on a dance floor, Unashamed and wildly genuine. We believe.

C: Sometimes our belief is distant, Flickering and calling out to us like a lighthouse on the sea. We believe.

L: Sometimes our belief shows up as passion, Guiding the way we vote, shop, give, live, trust, and hope. We believe.

C: Sometimes our belief is like a shadow—Faith stitched to our heels, unmovable, unlosable, A gift for winding journeys. We believe.

L: Sometimes our belief exists like growing pains. We step forward. We fall back. But again and again, Jesus invites us to listen, To grow, and to take another step.

C: So again and again, We speak these truths out loud: We believe.

L: We believe. **C: Again and again, we believe.** L: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession **Response: Your Mercy Is Great**

Offering (Offering Plates are in the back of the Sanctuary, please drop offering there)

* Offering Prayer

C: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Meal

Holy Communion

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you, **C: and also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts, **C: we lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the highest.

*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

*Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

*Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

*Post Communion Blessing

* Post Communion Prayer

P: God of steadfast love, at this table 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. **C: Amen.**

Sending

*Benediction

As you leave this space, May your mouth speak of God’s goodness. May your arms hold those in need. May your feet walk toward justice. May your heart trust its worth. May your soul dance in God’s grace. And may this be your rhythm— Again and again and again, Until God’s promised day. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself, Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen**

*Sending Hymn *Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross* Verse 4

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

Bulletin Donated: Happy Birthday Jackie!

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church

(Adopted in 1984)

Our congregation wishes to achieve unity of living guided by the word of God and encouraged by rural community spirit.

Our goals include:

1. The education of both young and old to carry out the Proclamation of God's Word and for all human kind through worship and witness.
2. Mutual social occasions, loving and caring for all human beings and reaching out to others with justice and peace.
3. Responsible stewardship of human material resources.

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord’s real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ’s name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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