

February 28, 2021 - Second SUNDAY IN LENT

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**Prelude: Brian Crane: Song for Sienna & Kennedy Center Homecoming Track 6 Medley:
"I'm Bound for the Promised Land/Shall We Gather At the River/Down By the Riverside"**

Welcome & Announcements

Lenten services are at 11:00 AM & 6:30 PM.

First Communion Students are preparing on Tuesdays from 3:15- 4:30 with Anita Lucken.

Foot washing is March 16, baking of unleavened bread is March 23.

First Communion is 6:30 on Thursday April 1.

Tenth grade students will be confirmed at 11:00 on March 14, with meeting at 7:30 PM on March 10.

7th, 8th & 9th grade confirmands continue to meet on Fridays at 9:00 and 10:00 AM.

Men's' discussion group Sundays after church at 10:30.

Bible study on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM.

Invocation

Prayer of Confession

P: Let us pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, empowered by Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (brief silence)

L: Most merciful God **C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

Absolution

Jesus' Words of Comfort & Forgiveness

Hymn of Thanksgiving and Praise: Kennedy Center Homecoming Track 1 "**Bless His Holy Name**"

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 22:23-31 (please read responsively the bold print)

²³You who fear the LORD, **praise Him!**

All you offspring of Jacob, **glorify Him;**

stand in awe of Him, **all you offspring of Israel!**

²⁴For He did not despise or abhor **the poor or the afflicted;**

He does not hide His face from them, **but hears, when I cried to Him.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; **my vows I will pay before those who fear Him.**

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; **those who seek him shall praise the LORD.**

May your hearts **live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember **and turn to the LORD;**

and all the families of the nations **shall worship before Him.**

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, **and He rules over the nations.**

²⁹To Him alone all who sleep **in the earth bow down in worship;**

before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, **and my soul shall live for Him forever.**

³⁰My descendants will serve Him; **future generations will be told about the Lord,**

³¹and proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn, **proclaiming the saving deed He has done for us.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Dear Heavenly Father, by the passion of Your precious Son, You made the cross, an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of eternal life. Grant us grace to glory in the Cross of Christ, so that we do not fear to suffer ridicule or 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.

Invitation to participate in the **Prayers of the Church**:

L: “Forgiven through grace and led by Christ through our 40-day Lenten journey of Repentance, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus by praying for the church, our nation, the world, those in need, and all of God’s creation. Let us bring our hopes and needs to the God who listens.” (*brief silence*)

Lord Jesus, You poured out Your life on the cross for the sake of the world. Pour out Your love throughout Your church and make us a community of welcome and grace to all. Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, You stretched out Your hand in creating the universe. We thank You for all the works of Your hand that fill us with curiosity, with awe and wonder. Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the Nations, come to all who strive to provide disaster relief, public health and safety, medical aid, peace, knowledge, and justice in this troubled world. Lord in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Gentle Savior, draw near to those who call on you for help, especially (list.) Open our eyes to the needs of those around us and move us to respond in faith. Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Wisdom of the Ages, guide us with Your still small voice heard within us when we take time to be still, and know that You are God. Give us all patience and wisdom to do Your will and pass on our faith in You. We especially pray for the families of Orlan & Eileen Solsten, Steve & Mary Sovick, Hilma Stadstad, Earl & Mary Steinbrenner, and Tom & Sarah Steinbrenner. Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Gentle Savior, remember the covenant You made with us in our baptism. Keep us faithful to our promises until we join with You, and all those who have gone before us. Help us to remember that You see us all. Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Hymn in preparation to hear the Word: “Every Time I Feel the Spirit, I Will Pray.”

First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7 The Sign of the Covenant

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; (*Heb. El Shaddai*) 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, (*meaning exalted ancestor*) but your name shall be Abraham; (*meaning ancestor of a multitude*) 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 (*Heb seed*) after you.

Genesis 17:15-16

God 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.”

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25 God’s Promised Covenant Comes through Faith

For **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, 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.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Ps. 119:105 Songs 4 Worship Song #2 Blue Hymnal 184

The Lenten Hymn: Best Loved Hymns CD2 Track 1: “**The Old Rugged Cross**” (blue hymnal p327)

Mark 8:31-38 Jesus Foretells His own Death, and Resurrection.

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."

The Word of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119: 105)

SERMON/CHILDREN'S SERMON

Hymn of Faith: Kennedy Center Homecoming Track 13 **"The Sweetest Words He Ever Said"**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. (1 Peter 3:19) On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

P: THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU. **C: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

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.

Benediction

P: Jesus goes into battle for us on the cross, so that we can be His own.

C: And that makes all the difference.

Closing Hymn: Kennedy Center Homecoming CD Andrae Crouch & the Disciples Track 17 **"Soon and Very Soon."** (Blue Hymnal p757)

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Recessional: Kennedy Center Homecoming Track 15 **"Battle Hymn of the Republic"** & Song for Sienna