



“Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

+ *Mark 8:34b (KJV)*

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28, 2021



“Get Thee Behind Me, Satan” by James Tissot (1836-1902), Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In His covenant with Abraham, the LORD promised to be with him, to bless him and to make him “*the father of a multitude of nations.*” It is “*an everlasting covenant*” in Christ Jesus, the Seed of Abraham who is blameless before God Almighty. All who believe in this Lord Jesus are the offspring of Abraham and are blessed “*throughout their generations*” (Gen. 17:1–7), because the Christ has suffered many things. He was rejected and killed, and after three days He rose again (Mark 8:31).

To comprehend this theology of the cross, we must set our minds “*on the things of God,*” and not “*on the things of man*” (Mark 8:33). “*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Rom. 5:8). Therefore, having been “*reconciled to God by the death of his Son,*” much more “*shall we be saved by his life*” (Rom. 5:10). Baptized into His cross and resurrection, “*we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*” and by faith we rejoice in the hope of His glory (Rom. 5:1–2).

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

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✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 115:11–13, 18; antiphon: Psalm 25:6

The pastor and congregation speak responsively. The antiphon is spoken by the pastor before and after the psalm.

(Antiphon) Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

¹¹ You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.

¹² **The LORD has remembered us; He will bless us;
He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron;**

¹³ He will bless those who fear the LORD,
both the small and the great.

¹⁸ **We will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

P The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 17.

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, ²that I may make My covenant between Me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And 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. . . .

¹⁵And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name 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 become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

The pastor and congregation speak responsively by half-verse.

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

Who for the joy that was set before Him endure the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1–11

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter five.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Mark 8:34b (κλν)

Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:27–38

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, chapter eight.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁷And Jesus went on with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they told Him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹And He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰And He strictly charged them to tell no one about Him.

³¹And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And He said this plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³But turning and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴And He called to Him the crowd with His disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

LSB 708

1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from
 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and
 3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om

me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,
 bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And

has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were
 grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy
 in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in

void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my
 lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false
 peace - ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from

heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.
 doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
 death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,

Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my
 O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior

blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
 cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -

Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.
 Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.
 tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

Philippians 4:7

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalms 51:10-12

- C** 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.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Lord to set our minds on His things rather than the things of man, that we may deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow His Son through this life into the joys of His resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Lord, who has given His Church the joy of proclaiming the truth that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, to grant to all pastors the gifts of His Spirit to preach and teach this truth boldly and faithfully, and to help us confess it in word and deed in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Lord to embolden us lest we be ashamed of the Son of Man when persecution comes upon us for the sake of His name, that He may not be ashamed of us when He comes in His glory with the angels; and for Him to be near to all those who are facing martyrdom for Christ, that they might be sustained unto the end and crowned with life before Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord, to whom belongs all kingship and rule over the nations, would bless Joseph, our President, Gavin, our Governor, Cheryl, our Mayor, and all those who govern us in His stead, that they may rule in wisdom and in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Lord, through His Holy Spirit, to pour His love into the hearts of all those who are suffering, that their sufferings may produce endurance, endurance produce character, and character produce hope that does not put to shame; and that He would grant them health and healing in accord with His perfect will or strength to bear infirmities, and sustain them in faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord would deepen our hunger for His blessed Sacrament through our daily afflictions, that we may eat and drink Christ's true body and most precious blood and be satisfied fully with the saving life of Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord, before whom a multitude of nations rejoice in heaven, would sustain us in the same justifying faith of Abraham, that as his offspring we may share in the everlasting covenant God made with him, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. For all viewing from home, please come for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Sometimes the woes of the world get you down. Sometimes it happens in big and unexpected ways, and other times, it's just the piling on, day-after-day, of all the little challenges and struggles that leave us saying with Donald Duck, "I'm so exasperated!"

For me, yesterday was one of those days—not a big, unexpected thing but a culmination of the little struggles that we've all been facing in this pandemic. I was just worn down, feeling edgy and annoyed . . . for no apparent reason!

As I took a break outside—a little peace and quiet, fresh air and sunshine—Holly took out our infuser (which takes scented oils and tosses the smell into the air) and filled it with the smell of The Venetian in Las Vegas, Nevada (no kidding! We have the ACTUAL scent the resort uses, purchased from Scentcerely—www.AromaRetail.com).

I came inside and POW! I was immediately transported to my happy place—to OUR happy place—the place where Holly and I were wed, where we spent our honeymoon, where we went for our anniversary, where we love to wander and peruse and meander through shops and lounges and the ever-lively casino floor whenever we travel to Las Vegas.

Before I knew it, I had the most serene smile on my face. My heart rate slowed and my breathing eased and I was relaxed . . . calm and at peace.

Smells can trigger some of the strongest memories AND the emotions that come with them. Think of the mom who, while packing away the baby clothes that have become too small, picks up the onesie, sniffs it, and closes her eyes, remembering the love of holding that tiny little newborn miracle in her arms. Maybe for you it is the smell of your loved-one's perfume or cologne, of the smell of engine grease that reminds you of your first car.

All this is to say that perhaps you can find a smell or a picture or a trinket that can do the same for you: transport you to your happy place for a mental vacation and reset from the struggles and strife of the day.

But smells seem to be the most effective. I read an article in Scientific American that said "Neuroscientists have suggested that this close physical connection between the regions of the brain linked to memory, emotion, and our sense of smell may explain why our brains learn to associate smells with certain emotional memories" (www.ScientificAmerican.com/article/why-do-smells-trigger-memories).

On a side note, maybe the Church should bring back incense—an otherworldly smell that sets the Church apart from this world and to connect us, in experience and memory and emotion, to that place where our Lord comes to us in Word and Sacrament, to deliver His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. It's worth considering.

And even though smells don't carry over the internet, I still hope that you'll join me for our Lenten Bible Study meeting on "Zoom" every Tuesday at Noon. We're looking at God's historic call to His people to repent and return to Him, and looking at how the things of this world try to get in the way of our own returning to God.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is "12345"

And then join me each Wednesday for our Midweek Prayer Service at 7:00pm, both streaming on Facebook and in-person. This Wednesday, March 3, we'll be at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Holtville; Rev. Beyer will be the liturgist and I will deliver the homily. Regardless of location, you can always watch on our Facebook page.

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

