Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 25, 2024 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Livestream at 11:00 a.m.



Christ Falling on the way to Calvary, Raphael c1514-1516

FAITH - DISCIPLESHIP - COMMUNITY THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history.

Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

♦ GATHERING **♦**

Prelude

Please rise, as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Most merciful God,
- 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.
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Gathering Hymn

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

No. 448

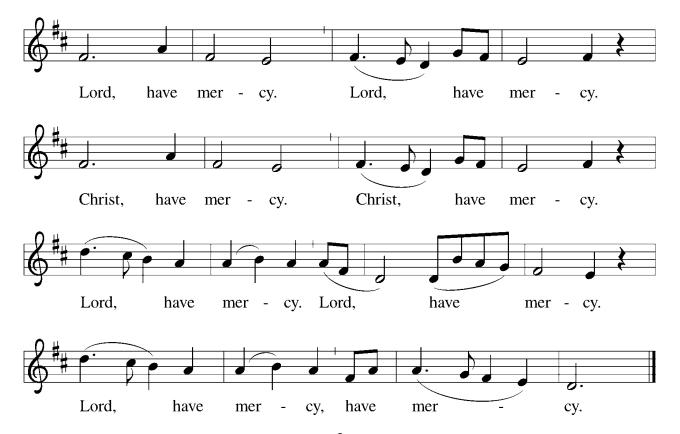


- 1 This is the Spir it's en try now: the wa ter and the word,
- 2 This mir a cle of life re born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa ter be the sa cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re-new-ing Spir-it, hear our praise for your bap-tis-mal pow'r



on your brow, the the cross of Je - sus seal both felt and heard. the sin - less one from life was torn; life comes through his death. our a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way. that wash-es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

- **P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.



- P Let us pray. O God,
- C by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and 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.

Please be seated.

→ THE WORD **→**

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis⁻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."

- **A** The Word of the Lord
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

- A ²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- C ²⁴For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- **A** ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- C ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!
- A ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- C ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
- **A** ²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- C ³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD, ³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans. ¹³The 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.

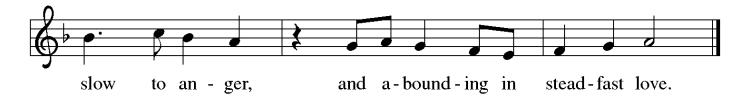
¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many 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.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please rise, as you are able.



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

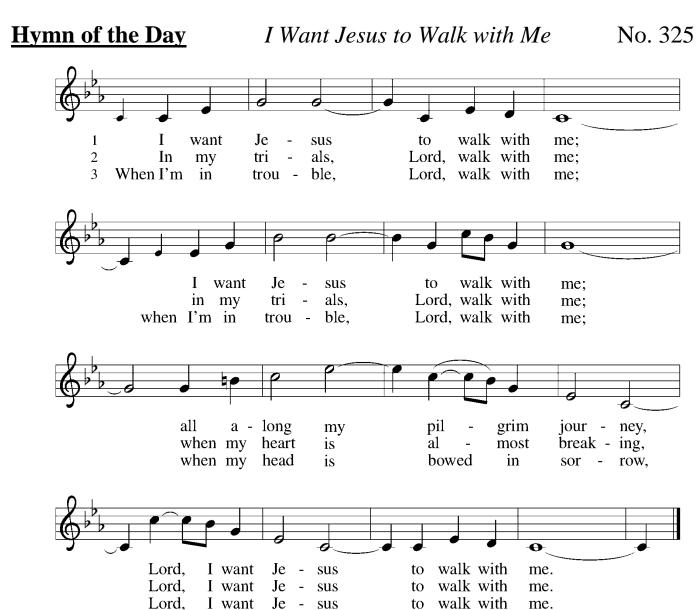
- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Alejandro Mejía

Please rise, as you are able.



- **A** Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.
- C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

- **A** Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

- **P** Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

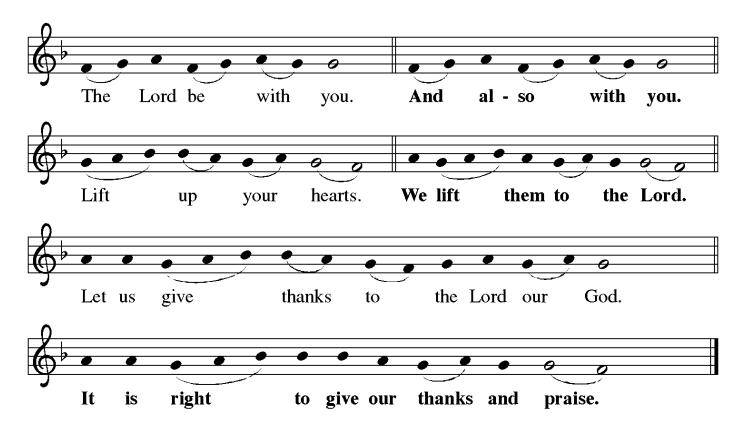
Offering and Offertory

As the gifts are presented, please rise as you are able.



- **A** Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
- C Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

♦THE EUCHARIST



The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:



P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper...

- **P** Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- **P** With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
- C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- P Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- **P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- 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.

- **P** Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
- C Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.

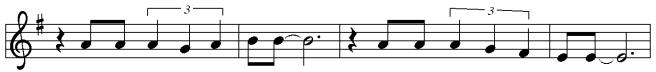
During the distribution, the following is sung: Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of . God, you . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us,

ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. have . . mer - cy up - on us.



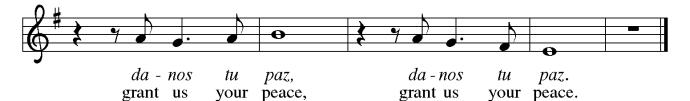
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

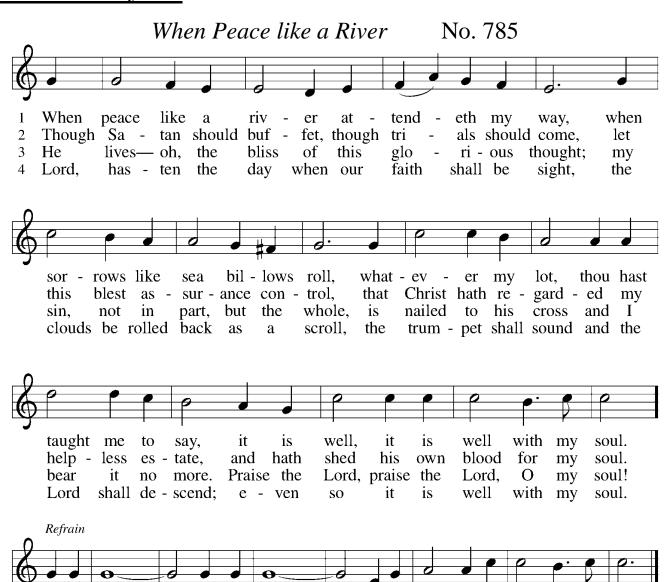


Communion Hymns

It is

well

with my soul,



it is well, it is well with my soul.



Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

After all have communed, please rise, as you are able.

- **P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray. O God,
- C in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

♦ SENDING **♦**

P May the outrageous welcome of our Creator + accept and love us for who we are; may the incarnation of the Word touch and hold us close; may the dancing flicker of the rainbow Spirit help us risk ourselves for love; and may the blessing of God Parent, Son (+), and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Go,

Go,

Go,

my chil - dren,

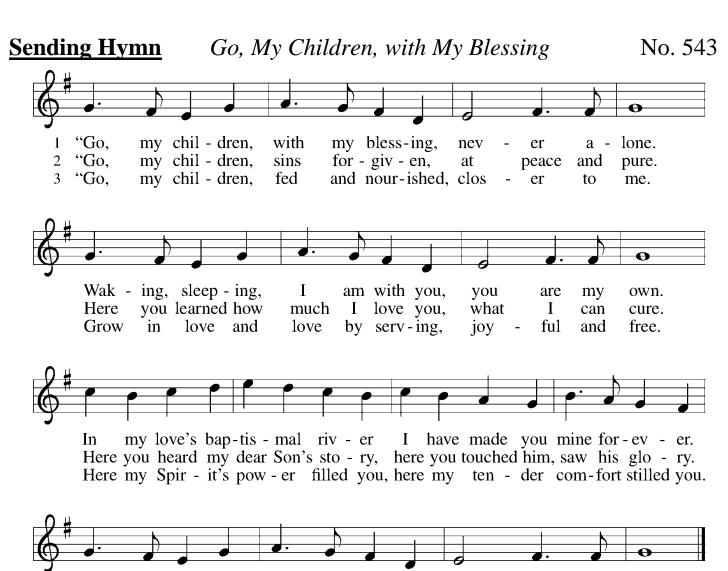
my chil - dren,

my chil - dren,

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and nour-ished, joy

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and

- **A** Go in peace. Share your bread.
- C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

We thank Barb Skillman for leading our music during worship this morning!

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

Ray, Paul, Donald, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty, Theresa, Linda, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Nicholas, Lois, Barbara & Bruce

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SERVING TODAY Greeters	8:30 a.m. Gail Fricke	11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Sherman Canapp, OSSD	Tina Zimmerman
Communion Assistants		Janet DeVinney
Ushers	Doyle McCracken	Peggy Thomas John Helmick
Acolytes		John Heimick
Livestream		Joel Raedeke