

A Congregation of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

We are a <u>Reconciling in Christ</u> congregation, affirming the diversity of God's children



1555 South James Road, Columbus, OH 43227 614.237.1263 + info@redeemerluth.com + www.redeemerluth.com

# Second Sunday in LENT



Photo by Steve Gale

# February 28, 2021

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...

an adventure for life!

#### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

All the Way My Savior Leads Me, arr. Lloyd Larson

# Welcome Hymn My Life Flows On in Endless Song D My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion, Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing. What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth. 1 2 3 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing! 4 D Ι catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing? It What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing? All Refrain storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing. No Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

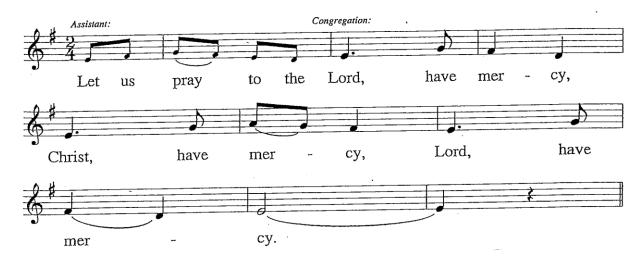
Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

# Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

# Kyrie

In peace, in peace,



For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all ... (Refrain)

For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word ... (Refrain)



#### WE PROCLAIM THE WORD



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

# For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;

but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

# Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

# For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

#### who rules o- | ver the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

#### Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

# whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

#### Gospel

# Mark 8:31-38 (Common English Bible, alt.)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

- Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."
- After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives?
- What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the glory of his Abba with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.



#### Message

# A BETTER LIGHT

# Reading

#### Romans 4:17-25 (The Message, alt.)

# A reading from Romans

- We call Abraham our parent in faith not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as parent of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "parent" and then became a parent because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said God would do. And so he was made parent of a multitude of peoples. God said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!"
- Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what God had said. That's why it is said, "Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right." But it's not just Abraham; it's also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God.

Word of God, Word of Life

# Thanks be to God.

In this situation I do not understand You. Your behavior violates our covenant; still, I trust You because it is You, because it is You and me, because it is us. ... Almighty God! What you are asking of me is terrible. ... But I have known you, my God. You have loved me and I love You. My God, you are breaking Your word to me. ... Yet I trust You; I trust You.

(Imaginary words Abraham says to God during the three days he travels with his son Isaac on the way to follow God's command to sacrifice him; in Eleizer Berkovits, <u>With God in Hell</u>.)

#### **Ministry of Music**

#### Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter Chime Choir

# **Apostles Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **Community Prayers**

Let us pray....

Amen.

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Lea Spang, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Kelly Scott, Diane Louangrath, Sue Baker, Julie Denniss' uncle Ed Stewart, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Lynn Belhorn's friend MaryAnn, Laura Warren's brother Walter Hudson and his wife Jan, Doretha Holland, Shirley and Jack Miller, Deidre (DJ) Zimmer, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Carolyn and Ed Klopfer, Nancy Stinson's brother Tom Starkey, Kathleen Zwanziger's brother Mark Zwanziger, Barbara and David Hairston, Kay Ernsthausen, Marshall Edgington and his wife, Ken and Grace Jones, Dora Pinder and family, Bill Boys, John Kennedy and Kevin Bailey, Michelle Clemence's sister Nancy Roebuck and her niece and family: Kaarina, Michael, Natalie, Liam and Tiffany Scales, Pamela Andrews, Andrea and Scott Steiner, Heidi Sherer's cousin Ann and family on Ann's death, Sophie Skoog.

# **Children's Time**

# WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

#### Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

#### **Great Thanksgiving**

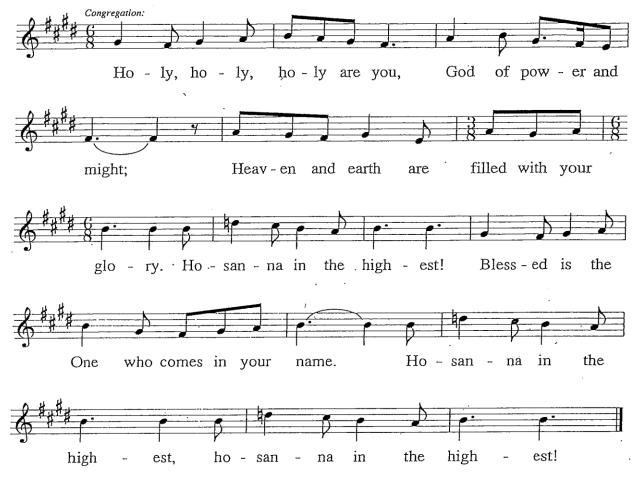
The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. And also with you. We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We are right to praise you, faithful God! You answer sin with grace; you guide our wayward steps toward home. You are mending for the broken, safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast, strength for the weak, and pardon for the sinner.

You reveal your kindness in every sorrow, your mercy even in death. All your creatures see your works; they sing your steadfast love.

We too declare your wonder and grace as with angels and saints we sing:



Now, O God, we remember Jesus. He fasted and prayed; he was tempted and tried. He relied on you for everything. He was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world. He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the humble. He was betrayed and deserted. He died between thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave. You gave him new life. He lives even now, our healer and friend. He loved us well, loved us to the end, and loves us still.

- Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them saying, "Take this and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me."
- After supper, he took the cup and gave it to them, saying, "This is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."
- Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new. Bless this bread which you have given and human hands have made. Let it become for us the bread of life. Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. Let it become for us the cup of salvation.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say:

#### Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living Christ who is with us now, and to the end of the age. Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world until the new age comes, and every creature beholds it.

#### Sharing the Meal

# Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion — oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

#### WE ARE SENT



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: ALL THE WAY, Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

# Announcements

# Postlude

# The God of Abraham Praise, arr. John Carter

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of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications.

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Amen.

# **OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

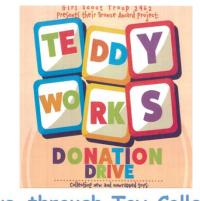
Presiding Minister Assisting Minister ASL Interpreter Reader Cantor Organist & Senior Choir Director Pianist & Chimes Choir Director Producer David Shull, Pastor Mary Benis Kadizia Rushing Mary Benis Wendy Stoica Kathy Rapp Karen Kent Sue Yehling, Michele Disbro

Noisy Offering will go to Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

#### THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 7

Today	10:00 am	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	ZOOM Adult Education
Tuesday	1:00 pm 5:00 pm	ZOOM Bible Study Zoom Outreach Team
Wednesday	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	RLC at LSS Food Pantry LIVESTREAM Lenten Worship
Saturday 10:00 am-noon		Girl Scouts Toy Drive and Cookie Sale
Next Sunday	10:00 am	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	ZOOM Adult Education





Drive-through Toy Collection and Cookie Sale Saturday, March 6 10:00 am – noon