



**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(please stand)*

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream the impossible dream - that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope - and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

**Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.**

Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasizes Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfill what had been promised.

**Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realize our dreams.**

Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life.

**Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.**

*Silent reflection on these words*

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

**Help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us when we are weak.**

**Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds and lives, so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us. Amen**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

"Faith was reckoned as righteousness...to us who believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised for the sake of our righteousness." (Romans 4:20-25) Hear and believe these words about God's amazing grace, grace experienced through Jesus' sacrificial love, as forgiveness of sins.

**Amen** *(please be seated)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"**  
**Sue Gates ~ Sonya Kempf**

**Vandall**

**A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Noisey offering to benefit Lutherans Outdoors*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

**Pew Bible OT pg. 14**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 22:23-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

<sup>23</sup>You 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.

<sup>24</sup>**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.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

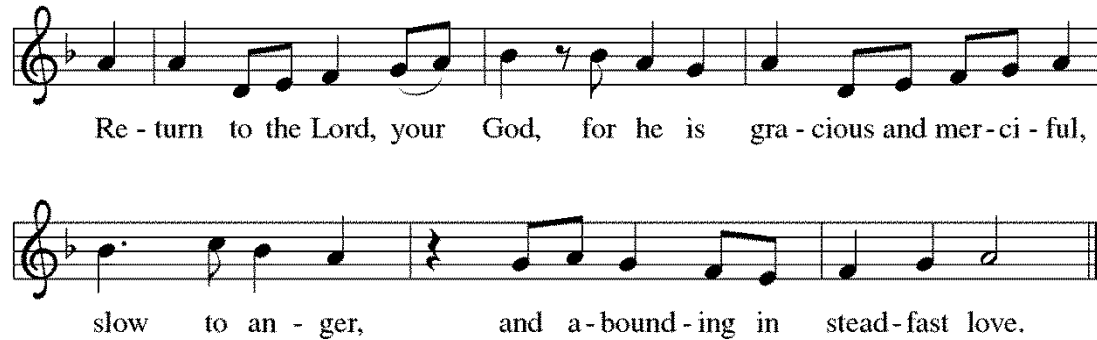
<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**  
**who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>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 before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**LENTEN VERSE** *(please stand)*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel according to Mark chapter 8.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL**

**Mark 8:31-38**

**Pew Bible NT, p. 44**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

**MESSAGE**

**Pastor Erin**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

**“The Wonderful Cross”**

When I survey the wonderful cross,  
On which the Prince of Glory died.  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from his head, his hands his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did ere such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown.

O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross,  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross,  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small.  
Love so amazing so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross,  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross,  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

O the wonderful cross,  
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Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross,  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

**APOSTLES' CREED** *(please stand)*

**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. *(please be seated)***

#### **OFFERING**

*The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the "For Children Everywhere" box.*

#### **OFFERING SONG**

#### **"What Have We to Offer"**

What have we to offer? What have we to share?  
Coins from the coffer, hearts filled with care.  
God will not falter if we will dare.  
Lay it at the altar there.

What have we to offer? What have we to bring?  
Love ripe with laughter, hope that we can sing,  
Dreams of what we're after, promises of when.  
Lay it at the altar then.

What have we to offer? What have we to give?  
Eyes that are wide open, lives that we won't live,  
Truth that must be spoken, justice somehow.  
Lay it at the altar now. What have we to offer?  
What have we to give? Lives we will live.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)***

Let us pray. Living God, we offer these gifts as signs of our gratitude for your faith in us; as signs also of our unashamed love for Jesus, and of our belief in the Holy Spirit's power to give us the strength we need to take up our crosses and to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen**

## **MEAL**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **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. *(please be seated)***

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPER**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.  
Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please indicate to the server by raising your hand.*

#### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

#### **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou has been Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand has provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above.  
Join with all nature in manifold witness.  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand has provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand has provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(please stand)*

Let us pray.  
Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and to all people, glorifying you in everything we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

Go, assured of the transforming power of God,  
the gracious love of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the renewing strength of the Holy Spirit within you and upon you. **Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **SENDING SONG**           **“For the Lord Is Good”**

For the Lord is good, and His love endures forever.  
He’s a faithful God, to all generations.  
For the Lord is good, and His mercies will not fail us.

They are new each day.  
O lift your voice and say, the Lord is good.

Great is Your faithfulness O Lord,  
Your loving kindness fills our hearts to overflowing.  
Songs of rejoicing and sweet praise.  
They fill our hearts. They fill our days.

For the Lord is good, and His love endures forever.  
He’s a faithful God, to all generations.  
For the Lord is good, and His mercies will not fail us.  
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For the Lord is good, and His mercies will not fail us.  
They are new each day.  
O lift your voice and say, the Lord is good.  
The Lord is good. The Lord is good!

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