

Service for February 28, 2021
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

L: Welcome this day to the second step on our Lenten Journey.

P: We come with great hope and expectation as we walk the way of Christ.

L: Today's journey will demand much of us.

P: Lord, make us ready to offer ourselves to you.

L: Come, let us begin again the wondrous excursion.

P: Let us place our lives in God's abiding love. AMEN.

Opening Prayer:

God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today. Amen.

Hymn: Where He Leads Me

Prayer of Confession:

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Responsively Read Psalm 22:23-31

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴ **For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.**

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you^[a] I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶ **The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!**

²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,

²⁸ **for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰ **Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.**

³¹ **They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!**

Prayers of the People:

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

Hymn: Be Still, My Soul

The Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

Message

Hymn: Faith of Our Fathers

Offertory Prayer:

God of all, you love us and have claimed us. As you blessed Sarah and Abraham, you have invited us into the blessing of connection within the family of humanity whom you continue to bless. We give our tithes and offerings in celebration of the depths of our blessing and pray that they will strengthen the church across the world to bless all your children. In the holy name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray in gratitude. Amen.

Benediction:

Last Hymn: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus