

# Second Sunday in Lent

## 13 March 2022



This is the Kvindherred Church in Rosendal, Norway established in 1255. Many of our early pioneers were baptized and confirmed in this church. On leaving Norway, some of our people carried letters written by the Kvindherred pastor attesting to their membership.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# **Service of Holy Communion**

## ***Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3***

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.  
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

### **Prelude**

### **Ringling of the Bell**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.  
*There is a time of silence for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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.**

P: 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 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.**

## **Hymn #324 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

### **Greeting** (page 138)

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.**

### **Kyrie** (pages 138-139; spoken responsively)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the  
church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and  
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

### **Readings**

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation** (page 142)

♫ **Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

### **Gospel**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**Children’s Sermon** – Pastor Roberta

**Sermon – Pastor Roberta**

**Hymn #735 “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”**

## **Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed (page 105)**

**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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*(Each petition ends: P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.)*

## **Offering/Offertory Prayer**

## **Great Thanksgiving (page 144; spoken responsively)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer (page 145)**

**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.**

***Holy Communion is celebrated today.***

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion  
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**"Lamb of God..." (page 146)**

**Hymn #733 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

**Post Communion Blessing & Prayer**

**Blessing**

**Hymn #597 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"**

**Dismissal**

**P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. C: Thanks be to God!**

**Ringling of the Bell / Postlude**

**Pastor:** Rev. Roberta Pierce  
**Organist:** Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman  
**Acolyte:** Macailah Jacobsen  
**Lector:** Melisa Jacobsen  
**Communion Assistant:** Deb Detlefs  
**Usher:** Dan Burke  
**Cleaners:** Shane and Amy Glover

**Contact Information:**

**Rev. Roberta** (406) 478-9518 prrmbp10@gmail.com  
Church Office (563) 246-2622 clparish@fbcom.net  
Website clparish.org  
Facebook www.facebook.com/clparish1861

**This Week At A Glance**

Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Worship at Faith
	7:00 pm	Bible Jam at Faith
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship Service at Faith
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Our Savior's
	10:30 am	Worship Service at Our Savior's

**Those to keep in prayer:** Sis Youngers, Lucy Lee Petersen, Yale Christensen, Paul Rock, Megan Mineck Wentland, Ryan Dick, Neil Mason, Betty Schau, Tim Burke, Jim Goddard, Barb Johnson; the homebound: Bus Seastrand, Rusty Porth, Hazel Richards, Ron Gasper, Norman Bousselot, Joan Shelton, and Myrna Kay Petersen; and those serving in the military.

We have some organ pipes from the previous pipe organ that are in need of a new home. There are a few short wood pipes and several wood pipes approximately 7-8 feet long. If interested, please talk with Jason.

Upcoming events:

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Worship service led by God Squad

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Clean up day



# Second Sunday in Lent

by Timothy Siburg | [www.timothysiburg.com](http://www.timothysiburg.com)

We're moving right along this Lenten season now. As such, the Second Sunday in Lent brings us more rich stories of discipleship and stories about God's presence, promise, and abundant love. From the story about God's promises of descendants to Abram, to the reminder that the Lord is our light and our salvation as the psalmist proclaims. To the words from the Apostle Paul about our citizenship being in heaven as God's children, and the image of God as a hen who gathers her brood. These are rich reminders of who God is, whose we are, and what God's love really means and looks like. Let's take them in order as we do, and note what we see and wonder about this week.

We start with the first story from Genesis 15. We read, "After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' **But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'** And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' **But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.'** He brought him outside and said, '**Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.'** Then he said to him, '**So shall your descendants be.'** And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:1-6, NRSV).

Your descendants will be as numerous and abundant as the stars in the heavens. I think we know this story pretty well. It's a reminder early on in our faith tradition (and that of all Abrahamic faiths), that we are all descendants in some way from Abraham. God's people. God's beloved. Descendants and heirs of a promise God made back towards the very beginning with Abram himself before Abram's name even changed to Abraham. We may not hear the

part of the story where Sarah laughs, but we recall it because we know this story. It's a story deep at the heart of our faith which reminds us that not only is our God a God who makes promises, our God is one who comes near and knows and loves God's own.

But the story isn't done. There's more included in the lectionary this week from Genesis 15. We continue reading, "Then he said to him, **'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.'** But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him... When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates'**" (Genesis 15:7-12, 17-18, NRSV).

We are reminded here that God provides, and God delivers. God delivers God's people to safety and provides land to live on and steward. God also provides and makes covenants or promises. And it's a story like this that shows the beauty of life and what will come for the generations of descendants of Abraham, but also the complexity. It's not a mystery why there are so many claims, and so much conflict too, related to the land especially between "the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates." That hasn't changed as history has continued, but neither has the covenantal promise that God makes to be God and Lord of God's people. So in that sense, this story reminds us too that God makes a claim on God's people, claiming them as God's own. This matters. This matters for relationship for each of us with God and with one

another. And this matters for God too because God wants to be in relationship with God's own (a theme that gets reiterated in the other stories in the lectionary cycle this week).

Psalm 27 is one of the more well known psalms, in part because it is a psalm that one can sing or pray or remember especially in times of uncertainty, anxiety, and concern. With the psalmist we exclaim, **“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?** When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.** One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: **to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, **and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.** Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! ‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, **O God of my salvation!** If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. **Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”** (Psalm 27, NRSV).

I don't know about you, but I can't hear these words right now without thinking of the people in Ukraine. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of

my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Early on amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, faith leaders asked the people of the world to pray with the psalmist. Well, I am doing that. And this week I think I am doing that with Psalm 27. For the psalmist also says, "Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident..." Sometimes the lectionary feels oddly poignant, relevant and present in the world at hand. This psalm in particular feels eerily timely. I hear these words with fresh eyes, and a heart and mind and I'm crying and angry and crying and sad and fearful, and crying and fuming... The pictures, stories, videos of horror, death of innocence, refugees in the millions... None of this needed to happen.

It's the result of pure evil. It's the result of warring and sinful madness, led by a despot tyrant who decided he wanted more land and power and didn't care who might get hurt in the process. I will not name him. For this caricature though fitting, is not limited to one person. It's an age old description of what happens as power and sin corrupts. And the worst part is how the brokenness and carnage affects the innocents around the whole world as a result of the evil shown by a few. I hope and pray for a safe return and life of freedom and democracy for Ukraine.

I hope for an end to this war. I hope and pray for an end to this war, a war that is pure evil and the result of complete human brokenness. But I also cling to the words of promise that the psalmist proclaims this week. The assurance that, "I will live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple." The response of stewardship and discipleship, where God's people "will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord."

Even amid bombs, and the world they knew being destroyed, God's people in Ukraine have gathered in basements, bomb shelters, subway stations and they have gathered and huddled in

hope and prayed and worshiped together as they can. These images are heart-breaking, but also inspiration. God is still being praised. For the people of God in Ukraine know even more than I know these words to be true with the psalmist, **“O God of my salvation!”** Our God is the God of salvation. So it is with this hope and trust and faith that we do indeed, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage...”

Times like these call us to take a stand for humanity, hope, and for what is right. Times like these call us to welcome the refugee, widow, and orphan without questions and with open arms and open hearts. Times like these remind us too of our shared humanity, the importance of truly believing there is a common good, and of our shared citizenship as Children of God and inheritors of God’s promises as descendants of Abraham.

It’s with this in mind that I am also struck by what Paul writes in this week’s second lesson. Paul writes, “Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. **But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.** He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, **stand firm in the Lord** in this way, my beloved” (Philippians 3:17-4:1, NRSV).

The apostle writes, “stand firm in the Lord,” virtually echoing the theme of the psalmist we just heard of waiting for the Lord and taking heart and courage. What really draws my attention here though is his writing that, “our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior.” This is what unifies.

We share a common identity as Children of God, and descendants of Abraham. This is true for you and me, for our siblings in Ukraine and Russia, and too for our siblings in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and everywhere else around the world. It's a beautiful thing. But it also calls us to remember that we have far more in common with each other as God's people than what separates us. And it's God's goal to bring us all back together as God's children, like a Hen and her brood.

Speaking of that image, it's the one Jesus uses then as a sort of parable or metaphor to explain God's desire to be in relationship with God's own, and the depth and breadth of God's love. We read in Luke 13, "At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, **"Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! **How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!** See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, **you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord"**' (Luke 13:31-35, NRSV).

You have to say, it's nice to hear that the Pharisees are showing a little concern for Jesus with their warning about Herod. Though you do wonder if they're more worried that they might be caught in the cross-fire by being associated with Jesus? (Perhaps like good samaritans might be for helping those who are being attacked in an unjustified invasion and war?) Jesus sees right though their words though. Turning Herod into a fox, which fits well with the metaphor and image of a fox and a hen house.

Jesus can't let the worries of the day and the fox's presence keep him from his mission and work which God has called him to. So he won't give in. He knows what lies ahead. He's looking squarely at Jerusalem to come, but he's not there yet. So his work of healing, teaching, and loving continues. He describes the people as chicks, and wants to bring them together like a hen. This is a very parental (if not motherly) image of God which I hope we can all relate to. Either way, this is what God hopes for- for bringing God's own together in love.

Let us work for peace, hope, and love. Let us care for those who are afflicted. Let us welcome those without a home now. Let us do all we can through prayer, discipleship, and stewardship as God's people to show all that God's love is very much real, and God is very much present now, even amid such a time as this.