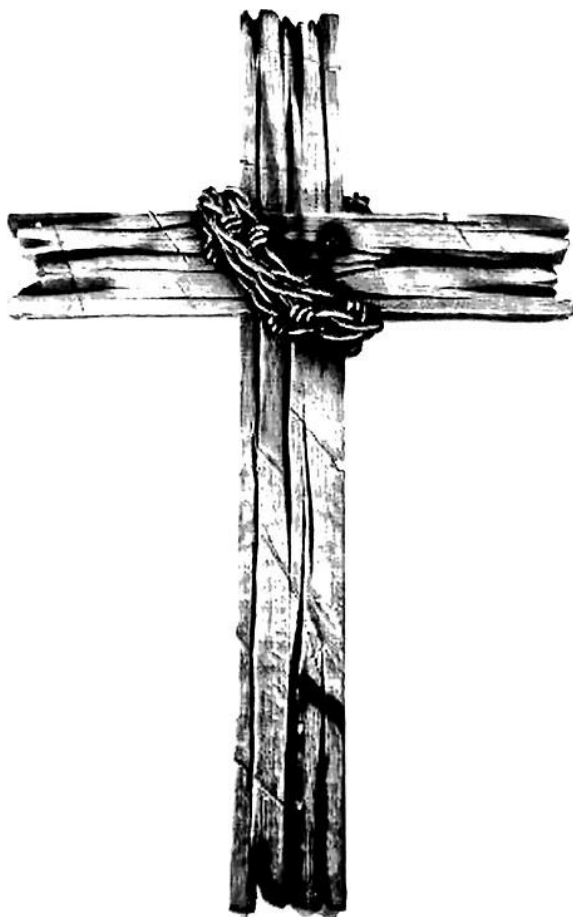


# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

25 FEBRUARY 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

# **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## ***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4***

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW starting on page 147.*

*The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

### **PRELUDE**

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Our of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **HYMN #514 "O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE"**

### **GREETING [PAGE 147]**

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** [PAGE 147]

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...now and forever.*)

**C: Amen**

**READINGS**

**GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16 / PSALM 22:23-31 / ROMANS 4:13-25**

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

♪ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** [PAGE 151] **“RETURN TO THE LORD...”**

**GOSPEL [MARK 8:31-38]**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN**

**SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN**

**HYMN #799 “COME, FOLLOW ME, THE SAVIOR SPAKE”**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES’ CREED**

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

P: 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.

*(Each petition ends: P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.)*

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

**C: Amen.**

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

#### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. *(concluding ...our Savior and Lord.)*

**C: Amen.**

♪ **GREAT THANKSGIVING** [*PAGE 152*]

#### **PREFACE** [*PAGE 153*]

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

**C: ♪ "Holy, holy, holy..."**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **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.**

***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.*

**COMMUNION [PAGE 154] “LAMB OF GOD...”**

**HYMN #813 “FAITH OF OUR FATHERS”**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

**POST COMMUNION HYMN**

**♪ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

**C: Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and  
forever.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN #798 “WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME”**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**POSTLUDE**

**Pastor:** Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen  
**Organist:** Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman  
**Acolyte:** David Burke  
**Lector:** Dan Burke  
**Communion Assistant:** Brian Boussetot  
**Usher:** Joe Morehead  
**Cleaners:** Marcia Edens

**Contact Information:**

**Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen**

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**This Week At A Glance**

Wednesday	6:15 pm	Midweek Lenten meal at Faith
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship at Faith
	7:30 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:** Diane Christensen, Mallory Boussetot, Diane Sievers; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Lucy Lee Petersen, Myrna Kay Peterson, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

You can help the four youth planning to attend the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** by becoming a stockholder. Shares cost \$50 each. Investors will receive mail from the youth while at the Gathering and an invitation to a supper when they return. Forms can be found at both churches. Contact Heather Grau (563-424-0507) or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392) if you have questions.

**Jars of peanut butter** (chunky or smooth, any size, any brand) will be gathered from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday for the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

**Midweek Lenten services:** A meal will be served at 6:15 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm. The February Wednesdays are at Faith and the March Wednesdays are at Our Savior's.

The Joint Council wants to form a committee to develop an **online parish directory**. Needed are two or three people from each congregation to serve on that committee. You can contact Pastor Leah, Amy Glover, or Mark Witte to volunteer or to get more information.

**Here We Stand!**

Travel to Germany with a group from the Southeastern Iowa Synod,  
hosted by Pastor Dennis Rodenberg.

The highlights of the trip will include  
the steps of Luther, modern Germany, and stories of emigration.

**July 21 – August 2, 2025**

Contact Pastor Dennis (563-880-5345) for more information.

# The Way of the Disciple

*Mark 8: 31-38 He called the crowd to him, together with his disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross, and let him follow me."*

This part of Mark's gospel is so near the heart and centre of the Christian faith that we must take it almost sentence by sentence. If each day a man could go out with only one of these sentences locked in his heart and dominating his life, it would be far more than enough to be going on with.

Two things stand out here even at first sight.

(i) There is the almost startling honesty of Jesus. No one could ever say that he was induced to follow Jesus by false pretences. Jesus never tried to bribe men by the offer of an easy way. He did not offer men peace; he offered them glory. To tell a man he must be ready to take up a cross was to tell him he must be ready to be regarded as a criminal and to die.

The honesty of great leaders has always been one of their characteristics. In the days of the Second World War, when Sir Winston Churchill took over the leadership of the country, all that he offered men was "blood, toil, tears and sweat." Garibaldi, the great Italian patriot, appealed for recruits in these terms: "I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor provisions; I offer hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Let him who loves his country in his heart, and not with his lips only, follow me." "Soldiers, all our efforts against superior forces have been unavailing. I have nothing to offer you but hunger and thirst, hardship and death; but I call on all who love their country to join with me."

Jesus never sought to lure men to him by the offer of an easy way; he sought to challenge them, to waken the sleeping chivalry in their souls, by the offer of a way than which none could be higher and harder. He came not to make life easy but to make men great.



(ii) There is the fact that Jesus never called on men to do or face anything which he was not prepared to do and face himself. That indeed is the characteristic of the leader whom men will follow.

When Alexander the Great set out in pursuit of Darius, he made one of the wonder marches of history. In eleven days he marched his men thirty-three hundred furlongs. They were very nearly giving up, mainly because of thirst, for there was no water. Plutarch relates the story. "While they were in this distress, it happened that some Macedonians who had fetched water in skins upon their mules from a river they had found out came about noon to the place where Alexander was, and seeing him almost choked with thirst, presently fined an helmet and offered it to him. He asked them to whom they were carrying the water; they told him to their children, adding, that if his life were but saved, it was no matter for them, they should be well enough able to repair that loss, though they all perished. Then he took the helmet into his hands, and looking round about, when he saw all those who were near him stretching their heads out and looking earnestly after the drink, he returned it again with thanks without tasting a drop of it. 'For,' he said, 'if I alone should drink, the rest would be out of heart.' The soldiers no sooner took notice of his temperance and magnanimity upon this occasion, but they, one and all, cried out to him to lead them forward boldly, and began whipping on their horses. For while they had such a king they said they defied both weariness and thirst, and looked upon themselves to be little less than immortal." It was easy to follow a leader who never demanded from his men what he would not endure himself.

There was a famous Roman general, Quintus Fabius Cunctator. He was discussing with his staff how to take a difficult position. Someone suggested a certain course of action. "It will only cost the lives of a few men," this counsellor said. Fabius looked at him. "Are you," he said, "willing to be one of the few?"

Jesus was not the kind of leader who sat remote and played with the lives of men like expendable pawns. What he demanded that they should face, he, too, was ready to face. Jesus had a right to call on us to take up a cross, for he himself first bore one.

(iii) Jesus said of the man who would be his disciple, "Let him deny himself." We will understand the meaning of this demand best if we take it very simply and literally. "Let him say no to himself." If a man will follow Jesus Christ he must ever say no to himself and yes to Christ. He must say no to his own natural love of ease and comfort. He must say no to every course of action based on self-seeking and self-will. He must say no to the instincts and the desires which prompt him to touch and taste and handle the forbidden things. He must unhesitatingly say yes to the voice and the command of Jesus Christ. He must be able to say with Paul that it is no longer he who lives but Christ who lives in him. He lives no longer to follow his own will, but to follow the will of Christ, and in that service he finds his perfect freedom.

*Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain*