

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2018

Worship Focus

Seriously! – Saving and Suffering Go Hand in Hand



**"If anyone
would come after me,
he must deny himself and
take up his cross
and follow me."**

MARK 8:34, NIV

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

428 - Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me?
2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me,
3 God gives me my days of glad - ness,
4 Since I know God nev - er fails me,



Christ is near With his cheer; Nev - er
Though their weight May be great, They will
And I will Trust him still When he
In his voice I'll re - joice When grim



will he leave me. Who can rob me
not de - feat me. God, my lov - ing
sends me sad - ness, God is good; his
death as - sails me, Trust - ing in my



of the heav - en That God's Son For
Sav - ior, sees them; He who knows All
love at - tends me Day by day, Come
Sav - ior's mer - it, Safe at last, Trou -



me won When his life was giv - en?
my woes Knows how best to end them.
what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, st. 1-3, abr.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 4; tr. composite, st. 1-3.
St. 4 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: WARUM SOLLT ICH MICH DENN GRÄMEN (8 33 6 D) Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-76.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob's suffering is largely of his own making, but God uses his moment of despair to assure Jacob of God's grace in the vision of the ladder. In the end, Jacob's years of suffering "in exile" would spare him the faithless fate of his brother.

GENESIS 28:10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

PSALM

Psalm 73

Refrain Tune: Jack Noble White. © 1976 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp., (admin. Alfred Publishing Co.).
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Those on the baptismal font side please sing the first line of each verse. Those on the pulpit side respond with the second line. All sing the Refrains and the Gloria.

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone



(Font) I am always with | you, O LORD;*

(Pulpit) you hold me by my | right hand.

You guide me with your | counsel,*

and afterward you will take me into | glory.

Whom have I in heav | en but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire be | sides you.

My flesh and my | heart may fail,*

but God is the strength of my hear and my portion for | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit,

as it was in the be | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON Romans 5:1-11

There was no other way to secure the saving blessings mentioned in vs. 1-5 or vs. 9-11 than to go through the suffering of vs. 6-8. Paul portrays it tersely, “Christ died for the ungodly.”

ROMANS 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b cf. NIV)

GOSPEL Mark 8:31-38

Jesus speaks plainly about the reality of the saving (and necessary) cross that looms large before him... and the crosses that stand in the life of the Christian. Saving and suffering – wrapped together in the cross – are evidence of God’s love.

MARK 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

434 - Lord, You I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, you I love with all my heart; I pray you ne'er from
 2 Lord God, 'twas your rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and
 3 Lord, let at last your an - gels come; To A - bram's bos - om



me de - part; With ten - der mer - cies cheer me. Earth has no
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that
 bear me home That I may die un - fear - ing, And in its



plea - sure I would share; Heav - en it - self were void and bare
 I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy your lav - ish grace
 nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in peace - ful sleep



If you, Lord, were not near me. And should my heart for
 And serve and help my neigh - bor. Let no false doc - trine
 Un - til your re - ap - pear - ing. And then from death a -



sor - row break, My trust in you no one could shake.
me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
wak - en me That my own eyes with joy may see.



You are the trea - sure I have sought; Your pre - cious blood my
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my cross - es
O Son of God, your glo - rious face, My Sav - ior and my



soul has bought, Lord Je - sus Christ, My God and Lord,
will - ing - ly. Lord Je - sus Christ, My God and Lord,
Fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, My prayer at - tend,



my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust your Word.
my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust your Word.
my prayer at - tend, And I will praise you with - out end.

Text: Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: HERZLICH LIEB HAB ICH DICH, O HERR (887 887 88 88 488) *Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur*, Strassburg, 1577, alt.

SERMON

Mark 8:31-35

With the Cross, Losing is Winning!

1. It was for the Christ
2. It is for the Christian

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to God, crying out for His mercy, confident that our Father hears our prayers because the Son of Man suffered, died and was raised for us.

Our Father in heaven, continue to establish Your saving covenant with us as You did with Abraham and his descendants, that we who surely deserve nothing from You may rely on You for everything. While we were still Your enemies, at the right time You gave Your Son to die for us. Grant us repentant hearts and faith that rejoices that His death has reconciled us to You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our Father in heaven, look with Your kindness upon all who hold public office in our land. Fill them with Your wisdom, give them both courage and compassion, and make them a blessing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our Father in heaven, be with those who pass through difficult times and know sickness or heartache, loneliness or despair [*including _____*]. Heal each one as You know best. Provide for those who lack money, home or the necessities of life. In every time of testing, teach Your children to hold tightly to You in faith, that in the end they may know the comfort of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our Father in heaven, You know the many temptations with which the world would snare us and draw us away from trust in You. Set our minds not on the things of man but on the things of God. Grant each of us a faith that confesses with joy that Jesus is the Christ. And also give us faith to daily deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him. Pour out Your Spirit on those who proclaim Jesus here and throughout the world. Bring those who do not know or trust His love also to believe and rejoice in the reconciliation our Savior accomplished for all by His blood. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our Father in heaven, Your Son promises deliverance from evil. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Bring us with all Your saints to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we place ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Those who want to
SAVE their life will **lose** it,
and those who **lose**
their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel,
will **SAVE** it.

Mark 8:35, NRSV



SERMON HYMN

465 - Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en,
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me;
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure!
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry,



All to leave and fol - low you, Des - ti -
 They have left my Sav - ior, too, Hu - man
 Come, dis - as - ter, scorn, and pain! In your
 Armed by faith and winged by prayer. All but



tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, You on
 hearts and looks de - ceive me; You are
 ser - vice pain is plea - sure; With your
 heav'n is tran - si - to - ry; God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry
 not, like them, un - true. And since you have
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this



fond am - bi - tion, All I've ev - er
 smiled up - on me, God of wis - dom,
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther! You my all in
 earth - ly sto - ry; Swift shall pass the



hoped or known; Yet how rich is my con -
 love, and might, Foes may hate and friends may
 all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may
 pil - grim days, Hope soon change to heav'n - ly

di - tion! God and heav'n are still my own,
 shun me— Show your face, and all is bright.
 gath - er; All must work for good to me.
 glo - ry, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt.
 Tune: HVFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87.

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
 Live in harmony with one another.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

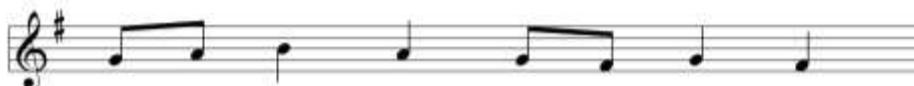
422 - Jesus, Lead Us On



1 Je - sus, lead us on Till our rest is won;
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
3 When we seek re - lief From a long - felt grief,
4 Je - sus, still lead on Till our rest is won.



And al - though the way be cheer - less,
Let not faith - less fears o'er - take us;
When temp - ta - tions come al - lur - ing,
Heav'n - ly Lead - er, still di - rect us;



We will fol - low, calm and fear - less.
Let not faith and hope for - sake us,
Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us



Guide us by your hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-60, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97, alt.
Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM (55 88 55) Adam Drese, 1620-1701.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.



IF YOU GAIN
the whole world
BUT LOSE YOUR
own soul?

MARK 8:36, NLT

Lent and Holy Week



On Wednesday evenings during Lent, together with Holy Week, we will focus on Jesus, Our Great High Priest. Dates and themes for those services are as follows:

<u>Wednesday/Festival (Date)</u>	<u>Worship Theme</u>
Ash Wednesday (February 14)	Jesus Is Our Great High Priest
Lenten Service (February 21)	Jesus Is Our Perfect High Priest
Lenten Service (February 28)	Jesus Is Our Compassionate High Priest
Lenten Service (March 7)	Jesus Is Our Self-Sacrificing High Priest
Lenten Service (March 14)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar
Lenten Service (March 21)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests
Palm Sunday (March 25)	Jesus Is Our Priest After the Order of Melchizedek
Maundy Thursday (March 29)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Is Mediator of the New Covenant
Good Friday (March 30)	Jesus Our Great High Priest Is Better Than Any Other High Priest
Easter Sunday (April 1)	Jesus Is Our Eternal High Priest